Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Mideast Peace Talks in Washington Begin Third Week

Syrian Negotiator Assesses Talks

JN0705114793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
7 May 93 pp 1, 18

[By Muhammad Dalbah]

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, has called on the Arab states and the PLO to reconsider their participation in the multilateral talks on peace in the Middle East.

He said: Although the Arab parties participating in these negotiations have promised Syria that they will not do anything before achieving some progress in the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks, Syria feels that this is contradictory logic. If they were really not ready to do anything before achieving some progress in the bilateral talks, then why did they join the multilateral talks? They should not have participated in the multilateral talks in order to exploit this as an element to pressure Israel to achieve progress in the bilateral talks.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Washington, al-'Allaf said that the objective of the multilateral talks is to normalize Arab-Israeli relations, particularly with the Arab states that are not directly involved in the Arab-Israeli talks.

He expressed the belief that the Arab states, particularly the Palestinians, should reconsider their participation in the multilateral talks. He said: Had they not joined the multilateral talks, the other Arab states would not have participated. This is because it is in favor of these states not participating in the multilateral talks before making progress in the bilateral talks.

In this regard, al-'Allaf strongly criticized the PLO, saying: The Palestinians, who found it difficult to participate in the ninth round of talks, joined the multilateral talks without consulting anyone. He added that the multilateral talks are tailored in Israel's favor, and the bilateral talks are in favor of the Arabs because they are aimed at achieving Israel's withdrawal and liberating Arab territories. The objective of the multilateral talks, he said, is to normalize Israel's relations with the Arabs and to impose its economic and technological hegemony on the region.

It is known that Syria and Lebanon have been boycotting the multilateral talks since they were first held in Moscow in January 1992. They link their participation in these talks to achieving true and tangible progress in the bilateral talks. Syria says that Israel has thus far not recognized the principle of a full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. In this interview, al- 'Allaf attributed Israel's refusal to announce its acceptance of full withdrawal, according to the working paper the Syrian delegation submitted in the sixth round of talks, to "Israel's inability to come up with a commitment similar to the Syrian one."

Al-'Allaf added that there is a difference between the Syrian- Israeli track and the other tracks. He explained this, saying: Despite the fact that there were many papers submitted in these tracks, the Syrian paper was the only working paper that was presented in the Syrian-Israeli track. It is a well-made paper which tackles future issues. It represents a stand on which Syria cannot compromise. It represents the limit Syria can reach, no more, no less.

Al-'Allaf disclosed that the Israeli delegation has so far submitted more than 20 papers since the outset of the talks. He said that these papers were all rejected because they have nothing to do with the resolutions and principles on which the peace process is based.

He said: As part of their attempts to ignore the Syrian paper—being the only possible paper—and to empty it of its essence, the Israelis submitted amended papers. Instead of accepting a full withdrawal, they call for a partial withdrawal, or a withdrawal in or over the Golan. They have not come up with anything acceptable. We are still battling with them over their maneuverings.

Al-'Allaf added: I think they are in a weak negotiating position. But, at the same time, they are in a strong position in reality because they are occupying Arab territory and will not be affected if the negotiations do not succeed. They even prefer it if the talks do not succeed because they will maintain their occupation of Arab territory. However, al-'Allaf stressed that the patience of Syria and the Arabs has limits and added: When time runs out, I do not believe that the Arabs will continue to negotiate indefinitely.

He said he thinks the current round of negotiations, which have been extended for one week, is "decisive and critical," and said: We have come here after the U.S. Administration pledged that it is willing and determined to play the full partner role in the peace process.

He said the results of the current round must be assessed in order to reach a judgment on the peace process, adding: This does not mean we are setting two- or three-month ultimatums for the peace process, but the credibility of the peace process is now reaching a critical turning point. We are waiting for a positive position from Israel. The Arabs have offered all they have and there is nothing more to offer. What we demand is only our territory occupied in 1967.

He pointed out that putting an end to the Israeli evasive tactics and maneuvers hinges on the new U.S. Administration's willingness to apply pressure or convince Israel to change its attitude. We are still uncertain about this, but we notice more action, activity, and involvement in the peace process on the part of the Americans.

Al-Allaf said he is worried the continued Israeli intransigence would push the U.S. Administration into reducing its role in the negotiations, before taking its hands off altogether. He said: The Arab states may also feel despair about continuing the peace process and then stop participating. This would harm the credibility that the U.S. Administration has recently acquired.

He added that the Arab peoples will also not accept endless negotiations. As a result, he warned, the Arab region may be exposed to instability and tension.

Al-'Allaf said when Syria and the other Arab states participating in the negotiations agreed to attend the peace talks with Israel in October 1991, they thought that the process would not take more than one year, after which Israel would start its complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. He noted that the agreement between Egypt and Israel did not take more than six months of open negotiations, adding: However, Israel is in a better position now because all Arab states are attending the negotiations, and this is what Israel was demanding. The Arab states have also agreed to keep out the United Nations.

Al-'Allaf said he thinks the Rabin government is not sincere about its peace tendencies, and that the role which the Israeli Labor Party's government is playing is now exposed. He added: The various statements made now are no more than an attempt to distribute roles. He said the Israelis try to blame the Likud opposition. He noted that the Arabs also have people who oppose the peace process, and said: Even the Palestinians have many factions that do not want the peace process and demand withdrawal from it. The Arabs, however, do not take advantage of this opposition to say they are not prepared for peace.

He said: Israel always tries to play the time game because, regrettably, it does not wish to live like an ordinary state in the region, but, rather, as a dominant one.

Regarding Washington's call for keeping the current round of talks open, al-'Allaf said Syria is "not convinced about this call," adding "we think this is not the time for such a call. The matter hinges on the outcome of the current round and we have to wait before talking about an uninterrupted round. He said Israel wishes to have uninterrupted negotiations to justify its call for moving the talks to the capitals in the region instead of Washington and to play with time when there are uninterrupted rounds, which, he said, "will provide Israel with extra weapons in its effort to entrench the status quo."

Palestinian Delegate on U.S. Help

JN0705143893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 May 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Text] The second week of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks ended without any breakthroughs along any of the tracks. This could prompt some Arab parties to demand effective U.S. intervention to save this round and, perhaps, the entire peace process as well.

Syrian and Palestinian sources were pessimistic about the possibility of the two tracks agreeing on any joint document during the third and final week of this round.

Several members of the Palestinian delegation said that during this round's deliberations, the Israeli side was confused, reluctant, ambiguous, and presented contradictory ideas.

Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of both the committees on land and human rights, told Radio Monte Carlo that despite the existence of several new elements in the Israeli proposals, what Israel presents with one hand it takes away with the other. Al-'Akir said that his delegation has noticed contradictory points and confusion in the Israeli proposals which, he said, reflect confusion within the Israeli leadership.

After Mamduh al-'Akir said that the failure of this round will rule out the possibility of the Palestinian delegation returning for a new round, he noted that the key to the success of this round is in Washington's hands. He added:

[Begin al-'Akir recording] I, and most other people as well, have no doubt that the only means to achieve a solution and to save the peace process is for the United States to intervene and play a real and effective role to force, convince, or make Israel comply with the point of reference of the peace process by presenting serious and integrated proposals. [end recording]

As expected, the Israeli side presented a draft declaration of principles yesterday on the Palestinian track. Mamduh al-'Akir said that the initial reading of this draft shows that it is not a suitable basis for agreement.

The Palestinian delegation is expected to present its draft document on this issue next week. Each passing day weakens the Palestinian delegation's hope for Washington's intervention in the last and decisive days of this round, which might bridge the gap between the two sides and save the negotiations.

Delegates Disagree on Resolution 242

TA0705170793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Israel and the Palestinians are in disagreement over the draft clause pertaining to UN Resolution 242. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that in the draft proposal it has presented to the Palestinians, Israel says that the second stage, the permanent arrangement stage, will be based on Resolution 242. The Palestinians are demanding that the clause say that the second stage will be the implementation of Resolution 242 which, according to their interpretation, means a full Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

Our correspondent has also learned that Israel is willing to have a joint American-Russian supervision of the elections in the territories, or alternatively Israel is suggesting that U.S. congressmen supervise the elections. The Palestinians are demanding that the United Nations assume the supervision.

Several Palestinian delegates have left Washington for consultations with the PLO leaders in Tunis. This was reported by PLO Spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who also announced that The PLO is rejecting the draft proposal for self-rule that Israel presented last weekend. He said it gives the Palestinians only a few municipal powers, but legitimizes the occupation. He added that the offer is not different from offers Israel had made during the time of Shamir's government. The document, he said, ignores the problem of Jerusalem and legitimizes the settlements. He denied that Israel offered international supervision for the elections that are to determine the composition of the self-administration council.

Yosi Gal, spokesman of the Israeli delegation in Washington, said that the delegation will wait for the official Palestinian response on Monday.

PLO Official Says Plan Being Studied

TA0705174793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 May 93

[Report by Israeli Television correspondent Shlomo Ganor from Washington on Arab-Israeli peace talks on 7 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the end of the second week and following U.S. mediation, the Israeli side presented to the Palestinians the draft of a declaration of principles covering the self-government's powers, duration, shape, and sphere of influence. This proposal represents a breakthrough in the negotiations and surmounts the basic problem—linking the transitional stage of implementing self-rule with negotiations over a final settlement. [passage omitted]

In the first meeting between Israeli Television and an official personality in the PLO leadership, Dr. Nabil Sha'th commented on the Israeli draft.

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] Naturally, we are studying this draft. Yesterday we sent the draft with a mini-delegation from the negotiating delegation to Tunis to be studied with the leadership there. My initial comment is that the draft contains old and new ideas, but the ideas are mixed. The initial impression is that sometimes what is given by the right hand is taken back by the left hand, but we will study the draft carefully before responding to it at the negotiating table.

[Ganor] Is there a possibility that a joint declaration will be issued in the coming week?

[Sha'th] This requires hard work and a sincere desire to reach agreement. I believe it also requires that the next five days be days of important work if we wish to reach an agreement. This depends on both sides. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israel's Rabinovich Interviewed on Talks

TA0705182993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 7 May 93

[Report from Washington by Ya'ir Stern—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Stern] The second week of the Washington talks ends with a new Syrian condition: Progress in the negotiations will, from now on, depend on Israel's willingness to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights. We asked the head of the delegation for talks with Syria, Ambassador Rabinovich, about the meaning of the Syrian stand.

[Rabinovich] I believe we both understand that both parties would like to reach an agreement. It is just this feeling that stimulates the desire of each of the parties to have the best possible deal for itself in the agreement. I believe the Syrians have a reputation for their ability to demonstrate patience and exert pressure. We are aware of this and we are not moved. This is yet another attempt to squeeze some more and intensify the pressure.

[Stern] [passage omitted] REUTER reports from Tunis that 'Arafat's aide, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, has rejected the Israeli document offered to the Palestinians, claiming that it perpetuates the occupation and that the Washington talks may be heading toward a deadlock.

Another 'Arafat aide, Nabil Sha'th, [acting as the PLO adviser to the Palestinian delegation in Washington] says the opposite. In an interview with him, he presented a more rosy picture.

[Sha'th, in English] What we are seeing is, side by side, some new things together with some of the old things. I think we have to really [make] moves so that the new things take over and become the basis of our real peace agreement.

[Stern, in English] The United States and Israel are pressing for a continuous round of talks so that the negotiations can achieve something. How do you view the future round of these talks, and is it good that they will be breaking off for two weeks?

[Sha'th, in English] Well, I think it entirely depends on how much progress we achieve. We want peace. We are not coming here to prove that you do not want it. No, we want peace and we believe that peace is going to be good for the Israelis, the Palestinians, the Arabs, the world. And, if there are signs that, like, if we sign this week an agreement of principles—than this will certainly be a very important persuasion that we continue the negotiations on an ongoing fashion.

[Stern] The current round of talks will end next week, after which the delegations will take a recess and reconvene in Washington at the beginning of the second week

of June. Israel will ask that the next round be continuous and not interrupted every several weeks.

Palestinians Discuss Israeli Declaration

JN0705183893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 May 93

[Kassab Samawi dispatch from Washington—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpt] Perhaps the most important development that took place at the end of the second week of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations was yesterday's declaration that some progress has been achieved toward reaching an agreement on a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles focusing on basic, substantial issues, especially on a political framework and boundaries for the negotiating process. The Palestinian delegation yesterday received a draft declaration of principles from the Israeli side.

[Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee] "There are discussions under way, which I can describe as serious. When I say serious, I mean neither to be optimistic nor pessimistic. I am only describing things as they are. There are serious discussions dealing with basic issues and points. It is a wide-ranging negotiating process; we may attain objectives here or there. It is not necessary that the title be: What we know is what we get. We may attain things before there is a title."

[Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat] "In the second week, there has been progress regarding the question of a declaration of principles or intentions. In the negotiations, we wish to reach an agreement on principles asserting basic principles which guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in any forthcoming detailed negotiations on the interim Palestinian government. This includes our full right to legislation, our full right to executive, judicial, and legislative authority, to our geographic sovereignty over all occupied Palestinian territories, etcetera."

Acknowledging progress in the Israeli proposals on certain substantive points included in the declaration of principles, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, affirmed the existence of substantial differences in both the Palestinian and Israeli proposals.

['Ashrawi] "This does not mean that the differences are final. Otherwise, the negotiations would have ceased. Nor does this mean that there are agreements. Otherwise, there would have been no need for the negotiations. We are trying to analyze, examine, and diagnose the issues on which the Israeli stand can be changed. Take, for example, the issue of dealing with the land as an integrated geographic entity, a principle which we have actually obtained from the Israeli side. But when we talk about the content, the Israeli side attempts to divide this integrated geographical entity in terms of administration." [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on Expectations From Syria

TA0805045993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The head of the team to the peace talks with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, says Damascus must take action to prove to both Syrians and Israelis it has made an irrevocable decision to make peace with Israel.

Professor Rabinovich told a meeting of leaders of the American-Jewish committee in Washington this is one of three issues Syria must address before Israel will say how far it was willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights. The other two are that Syria must further elaborate on the nature of peace it is willing to accept in return for withdrawal. Also, it must explain whether its agreement to peace with Israel would be dependent on other Arabs reaching a settlement.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 8 May in a similar report adds that Rabinovich said: "Israel and Syria understand that they are moving closer to agreement and the two countries are now discussing the details." The report goes on to say that Rabinovich asserted that "there was no need for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to make a dramatic gesture along the lines of the late Egyptian President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem." Rabinovich noted, however, that "Syria must take a series of steps to clarify its commitment to reach an agreement with Israel."]

Israel Accepts Election Monitoring

NC0805090893 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 8 (AFP) - Israel has met a long-standing Palestinian request by accepting international monitoring of elections in the occupied territories, the deputy chief of the Palestinian peace team, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, said on Friday.

"The presence of a third party is a Palestinian request which has now been satisfied," 'Urayqat told AFP at the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Israel had adamantly refused international monitoring of the elections in which the Palestinians would choose a Palestinian council that will administer the five-year autonomy plan in the occupied territories.

Israel has argued that the presence of international monitors on in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would undermine its authority in the territories which it has occupied since 1967.

On Friday the spokesman of Israel's peace team, Yosi Gal, said the delegation had accepted "external (international) monitors" to the elections.

But a senior Israeli official in Washington said Israel would not allow the United Nations to run the poll.

'Urayqat did not mention any UN monitors but he said the Palestinians would accept "any international supervision agreed upon by both sides."

Gal said the offer on election monitoring was contained in an eight-point draft of an agreement on Palestinian self-rule which was presented Thursday to the Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinian delegation was expected to accept or reject the plan when peace talks resume next week in Washington, he said.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation in Washington meanwhile reported that the plan was under scrutiny at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Headquarters in Tunis.

Chief Palestinian peace delegate Faysal al-Husayni flew from Washington to Tunis late Friday to brief the PLO leadership on the latest developments at a meeting aimed at mapping out a response to the Israeli offer.

'Urayqat said the offer contained some "changes" compared to previous Israeli proposals, including Israel's recognition of the "geographical integrity" of the occupied territory.

But he said Israel and the Palestinians remained deeply divided over key issues.

Syria's al-Allaf on Multilaterals

JN0805151993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Tunis, 8 May (SANA)—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has called on the Arab countries and the PLO to reconsider their participation in the multilateral talks.

In a statement published today in the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ, al-'Allaf said that Arab parties should not have taken part in the multilateral talks before achieving progress in the bilateral talks. He questioned why they did not refuse to take part in these talks to press Israel for achieving progress in the bilateral talks.

Al-'Allaf accused Rabin's government of being dishonest in its peaceful trends. He said that the role of the Israeli Labor Party's government is now being exposed and that this government's different statements only indicate a distribution of roles, stressing that Israel is trying to waste time.

Regarding Washington's call for keeping the current round of talks open, al-'Allaf said that Syria does not believe in it, as it is premature.

Al-Husayni Discusses Israeli Proposal

JN0905190493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, currently in Tunis, by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, political affairs correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Mr. Faysal: The statements issued by the PLO and the Palestinian delegation have differed on the Israeli document which was submitted to you during negotiations. According to Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian delegation's head, what exactly is the true situation?

[Al-Husayni] The document submitted by the Israelis was regarded as a declaration of principles despite the fact that it contained some new points which are a step forward. At the same time, however, other articles of this document empty these points of their content. Accordingly, there has been a thorough study of this paper, and it will receive a clear and detailed reply tomorrow, I believe. The reply will define where these negative points are present, especially since we regard some points in this paper as basically conflicting with the terms of reference of the peace process.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Faysal: In the last week of talks, will you submit a self-rule proposal as was done by the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] We submitted a proposal in the past. What can be submitted is an alternative to this Israeli paper. A Palestinian paper can be submitted which will safeguard Palestinian rights and at the same time be in harmony with the principles of the invitation as well as the principles and terms of reference of the peace process.

[Dhiyab] Reports have said that Israel rejects that Jerusalem be represented in the negotiations. Can we say that this is a retreat which belittles the gains achieved by the Palestinains by admitting you personally into the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that our position on Jerusalem has not changed. We do not claim that Israel's position on Jerusalem has changed, but a fait accompli is imposing itself now. I am present at the negotiating table, and we will raise any issue pertaining to Jerusalem. We absolutely do not believe that the issue of Jerusalem can be excluded from this phase of negotiations.

[Dhiyab] When will you return to Washington, and what will you have for the last week of the ninth round?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the Palestinian leadership still has to hold some meetings and conduct some studies here. When we finish them, I will head for Washington or elsewhere. This, however, will not be clear before this evening.

'Text' of Israeli Proposal to Palestinians

JN1005062293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 May 93 pp 1, 4

["Full Text" of Proposal Presented by the Israeli Delegation to the Palestinian Delegation to the Washington Peace Talks "Last Thursday"]

[Text]

INFORMED DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

AGREED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Israel and the Palestinians agree to base their negotiations on the following principles:

1. The goal of negotiations and terms of reference:

Direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, in the framework of the objective of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, based on resolutions 242 and 338, per the Madrid invitation, to be conducted in two phases:

(1) Talks conducted with the objective of reaching agreement on interim self-government arrangements,

(2) Beginning the third year, negotiations on the permanent status will take place. These negotiations will be conducted on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338.

The process is one: Its two phases are interlocked in the agreed timeframe; the first phase will also naturally bear relevance towards the second phase, with the understanding that all options for the second phase remain open to the parties to agree in the framework of the above mentioned agreed basis.

The terms of reference of this process are the Madrid invitation.

2. General

During the interim self-government arrangements period, a major change will occur in the existing situation in the territories, by transfering to the Palestinians the vast majority of the functions of the civil administration, which will be dissolved. Israel will maintain responsibility for the overall security of the territories; Israel will also be responsible for the Israelis there. Options should be kept open for the next stage, per the above.

3. The Palestinian Executive Council

A Palestinian Executive Council (PEC), which will consist of an agreed functional number of Palestinian representatives from the territories, will be established through free, general and direct elections, by and from among the Palestinians of the territories, which will be held under agreed supervision and in accordance with agreed negotiated modalities. Detailed negotiations will follow concerning the modalities for the elections.

4. Powers and Responsibilities

The Israeli civil administration will transfer to the PEC, and the PEC will assume, executive and judicial powers (by independent judicial organs) per the agreement. The PEC will be vested with legislative powers within the responsibilities transferred to it, subject to agreed principles and to mutual confirmation concerning compatibility with the agreement.

Due consideration will be given to the need to review legislation in force in remaining areas, as appropriate.

5. Jurisdiction

The territories are viewed as a single territorial unit, the agreed proper fate of which will be determined in the permanent status of negotiations per the above. The authority of the PEC will apply within the territories, as appropriate, in accordance with its agreed operational-functional powers and responsibilities, to be further elaborated in the negotiations.

6. Security and police issues

A. Overall security will remain under Israel's responsibility. Security needs of both sides will be taken into consideration.

B. The PEC will establish a police force as a law enforcement organ, per the agreement.

7. Liaison

Israel and the PEC will establish a joint liaison committee to deal with matters of common concern and for the purpose of dispute resolution.

8. Agreed arrangements

Israel and the PEC will establish agreed arrangements for cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual concern, to benefit both sides and respond to their common needs.

9. Jordanian-related aspects

Jordanian-related aspects will also be discussed.

The above principles will be further discussed and elaborated in the negotiations.

Israel on Complaints About Deportees

TA1005045593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The peace talks resume this afternoon in Washington amid firm demands on the part of the Palestinian delegation to accelerate the return of the 400-odd Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] Kurtzer and Miller, two members of the U.S. peace team, called on the Israeli delegation at

their Washington hotel to confer with Elyaqim Rubinstein. They had also heard Palestinian complaints about the set of gestures promised by Israel which has not yet been fulfilled.

Meeting Israeli correspondents here yesterday, 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th stated that Israel had promised to review the causes behind the deportation of other Hamas deportees, in addition to the first 101. Only 30 old-time deportees have been allowed to return so far, Sha'th grumbled.

Members of the Israeli delegation reacted by saying: We are vigorously working on the matter. All the reasons for the deportation of the Hamas members are being reviewed in Israel, and when this procedure is completed and decisions are made, they will be conveyed to the Palestinians in the subcommittee on human rights, whose work had been suspended by the Palestinians and which will resume its sessions either this evening or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, it is not clear whether the Palestinians will submit a counterproposal for the joint declaration of principles. Referring to the draft submitted by Israel, Sha'th said: It recalls legislation in the Arab countries where new and modern laws are legislated without abolishing old ones. According to him, the Israeli draft contains new ideas alongside old notions which contradict them. This argument will apparently continue today in the State Department's conference rooms. [end recording]

Jerusalem Residents on Council Possible

TA1005080293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 May 93 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Our correspondent has learned from Israeli sources in Jerusalem that Israel will be prepared to grant the Palestinians in East Jerusalem the right to vote for and be elected to the Palestinian autonomy council during the interim period, depending on developments with regard to the formulation of the declaration of principles. The sources noted that the Israeli delegation in Washington decided to stop discussing the formulation of an agenda with the Palestinians in favor of formulating the declaration of principles in order to make things easier for the Palestinians. Israel has noticed that the latter are having a hard time discussing the transfer of powers. Such a declaration of principles would make it easier to secure an achievement in the current round of talks in the hope that on the basis of this document it will be possible to resume discussions on the agenda in the next rounds.

The sources added that Israel has dropped its demand that the Palestinians agree to set up joint committees with Jordan because the former have a hard time with Jordan's inclusion in the interim period.

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders Meet on Israeli Self-Rule Proposal

LD0805190193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] Awaiting the return of the Arab and Israeli negotiators to resume the ninth round of bilateral talks, the Palestinians have started negotiations among themselves over the self-rule draft proposed by the Israelis to the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

The discussions are focusing on the draft the Israelis presented to the Palestinian delegation concerning self-rule, which is rejected by the Palestinians because it legalizes the occupation and gives the Palestinians only very limited power, as PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh stated, adding that this draft is leading the peace talks into deadlock.

Sa'ib Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has anticipated the same fate for the ninth round of the current talks if the Israelis do not review their stand over the issues of Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, the two issues the Israelis insist on excluding from the self-rule framework. Sa'ib Urayqat has confirmed that next week the Palestinian delegation will present a draft of a declaration of principles fulfilling all the Palestinian conditions and requirements, foremost among which is the definition of geographical priority over all the lands occupied in 1967, including the city of Jerusalem, and a definition of relations with the settlements as they are considered illegal.

As for Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, he believes that the continuation of negotiations with the Israelis would be pointless in light of the recent announcement in Israel that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not have the power to sign any peace agreement without referring it to the Israelis through a referendum or elections. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinian delegation will seek an explanation of this issue from both the Israelis and the Americans.

'Arafat Chairs Meeting

JN0905201893 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Chaired by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman—with brother Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and a number of other delegates in attendance—the Palestinian leadership held a meeting in Tunis today to discuss the outcome of the bilateral talks that began in Washington on 27 April as they affect the Palestinian track. The Palestinian leadership is discussing the paper presented by the Israeli side to the Palestinian delegation during the talks dealing with Israel's notion of self-rule in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Palestinian leadership is considering either a Palestinian response to the Israeli proposals or a

counter Palestinian paper spelling out the Palestinian concept of self-rule and the transitional period. The Palestinian leadership is also discussing the problems facing the three Palestinian-Israeli joint committees, especially the committee addressing human rights in the occupied territories.

PLO's Hurani on Autonomy

NC0805193193 Paris AFP in English 1858 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Tunis, May 8 (AFP)—The PLO is meeting here to outline its terms for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories after rejecting Israel's draft of an autonomy accord, sources close to the organization said Saturday.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which was due to meet again later Saturday, is working on a document repeating its demand for the election of a legislative council with broad powers, the sources said.

The document will be a response to the eight-point draft that Israel presented to the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington on Thursday, they added.

PLO executive committee members met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for three hours on Friday with several of the Palestinian negotiators, including Faysal al-Husayni. They discussed the draft and the issue of autonomy, which is planned for an interim period of five years before the final status of the territories is determined.

'Abdallah Hurani, an executive committee member, welcomed only Israel's acceptance of international monitoring for elections to a self-governing authority in the territories.

"Only the form has changed while the substance of this (autonomy) position remains the same," Hurani said, adding the draft ignores the Jerusalem issue and seeks to confirm the presence of Jewish settlements in the territories.

Palestinians and Israelis both claim Jerusalem as their capital.

On Friday PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said his organization rejected the Israeli draft as granting only "municipal powers" and some others in the areas of education and health.

Al-Husayni Appointed to PLO Committee

TA0805183193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The PLO leadership is now formulating in Tunis a stand rejecting the Israeli draft of the declaration of principles to be made in the Washington talks. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the discussions are attended by Faysal al- Husayni and three other Palestinian delegates.

According to Palestinian sources, al-Husayni has now been appointed a member of the PLO Executive Committee, although this has not been officially declared.

PLO spokesmen are saying that, although the Israeli draft does include new formulations, it does not deviate from the concept of autonomy which they do not accept. The Palestinian response will be given on 12 May, and it is possible that they will present their own draft.

Meeting Ends

LD0905174793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpt] The meetings of the committee for following up the Palestinian negotiations, which were held under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, ended in Tunis today. These meetings dealt with the document on Palestinian self-rule which was presented by the Israelis at the Washington negotiations, and the Palestinian reply to the points contained in it.

TAP quotes a responsible Palestinian source as saying that the members of the negotiating delegation have informed the Palestinian leadership that the Israelis did not promise anything with regard to the issue of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in southern Lebanon or those deported since 1967.

Nothing is known yet about the Palestinian reply to the Israeli proposal; however, a number of leading Palestinians have expressed their rejection of the Israeli proposal. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Comments on Talks

LD0905221893 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 93

[Interview with Palestinian figure Faysal al-Husayni by unidentified reporter in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Our television news desk has contacted Mr. Faysal al- Husayni and asked him to give more details, even in general terms, concerning the Israeli project and concerning the Palestinian proposals and about the Tunis meetings.

[Al-Husayni] In fact the project is not for the transitional stage or what Israel calls self-rule. The project was not in this form. It is a project for declaring principles on the concept of the negotiating process and where it should lead..

Concerning this project, despite the fact that there are some points which we can say are new, nevertheless in the context of the project itself they returned to withdraw with the left hand what they gave with the right, and to remove the content of some of the basic matters.

For this reason, the Palestinians position was this: We do not see in the declaration a suitable paper to be raised. This is what we will raise at the first meeting between us

and the Israelis. And we will explain to them why this paper is not suitable as a basis for reaching an agreement over the concept of the negotiating process.

[Reporter] During the time of the Shamir government, the Israeli side put forward a project. What is the difference between the two projects, the one put forward at the time of the Shamir government and the other at the time of the Rabin government?

[Al-Husayni] The difference here is in the language. In the first place, there is a difference in the language, although this new paper pursues a specific line which is trying to arrive where Shamir tried to reach, and this makes us say that this paper is not in fact suitable for coming out with a practical thing because in this case we see that it is not agreeable; on the contrary it may have some points that are outside the points of the peace process terms of reference.

[Reporter] What are, generally, the results of your meeting with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis?

[Al-Husayni] In fact numerous issues were raised, and they are an evaluation of this round. Here I would like to say something: We are engaged in negotiations— difficult negotiations. We (?know) the other side as stubborn and intransigent, and we know the difficulty of the negotiations. This is not a new thing to us. But we also understand something else, and it is this: If we reached some agreement and if the agreement concerned offering something, the other side should offer it. And Israel did not do that. There were agreements over handing over a certain paper concerning Marj Zuhur and the deportees of Marj Zuhur. Until now it has not been delivered, although it was supposed to be delivered by the start of the negotiating process. We reject this method of work. For this reason we have suspended the meetings of the human rights committee, and if this matter is not tackled and if dealing with us has not taken place in the way that complies with the agreements sponsored by some other quarters and states, then this may be applied to the other committees; moreover, the broad lines of another Palestinian paper might be completed and implemented in Washington [sentence as heard].

Abu-Sharif on Peace Talks, Israeli Draft, U.S. Role

NC0805072593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 May 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you, Ashraf.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif: It is now two weeks into the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Could you tell us first what the Palestinian side offered during this round?

[Abu-Sharif] I would like to say first that the atmosphere of this round was different than that of previous ones. The talks were more serious, and they dealt with basic points. The presence of the United States as a full partner to these talks undoubtedly had an effect, although the U.S. Administration has not yet played the role we expected and continue expecting it to play. What harmed this round, however, was that while we were discussing with the Israelis and other parties ways to respect human rights and implement the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Israeli Government escalated its bloody terrorism against our people in the occupied territories in an unprecedented manner. Over the past 72 hours, eight Palestinians have been martyred and more than 60 others injured by the Israeli occupation forces. The victims included children who were playing in a schoolyard in Gaza. This disturbed the atmosphere.

Moreover, the Israeli Government apparently is continuing its procrastination over everyone's desire to reach specific results and to play inside the playground, not outside. For all that, we are not pessimistic; on the contrary, we are calling on, actually demanding, that the U.S. Administration keep its promises. Swift moves must be made to transfer authority from the occupation forces to a real, powerful, and authority-enjoying Palestinian self-government [hukumah dhatiyah]. The Israeli Government continues to maneuver over this. We also called on the U.S. Administration to take measures to protect the Palestinian people because the Israeli pledges concerning human rights have not been put into practice and the iron-fist policy remains a sword brandished before our people.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the Palestinian impression of the Israeli delegation's draft on autonomy?

[Abu-Sharif] This is the essential point. The negotiations' overall objective is to implement Resolutions 242 and 338, and to transfer power to a Palestinian self-government, as I said. The Israeli Government is still revolving around its previous proposals about a limited administrative rule [hukm idari]. This is not exactly what the U.S. Administration pledged. As you remember, when we decided to go to the negotiations we counted on the promises and pledges made by the U.S. Administration through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and also on what Israel pledged to the United States. This makes us hope and expect that the U.S. Administration will keep its promises by using its good relations with Israel and the means of persuasion it has with the Israeli Government. It is imperative that we make tangible steps toward ending the occupation and establishing a Palestinian self-government that enjoys powers, as the United States pledged.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif: Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] spoke with much optimism about the Palestinian state and its establishment within a specific timeframe. Have there been any indications from the negotiating table in Washington to justify this optimism?

[Abu-Sharif] The independent Palestinian state is coming, no doubt. No one, no matter how intransigent—such as the Israeli Government—can stop the wheels of history. The peace process has begun and will not stop; the occupation will be removed. Like all nations, the Palestinian people have a right to national independence. No one can stop that. We are seeking a gradual solution leading to this national independence.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Will the Palestinian delegation present any new ideas during the third week of the ninth round, in addition to what the delegation offered at the beginning of the round?

[Abu-Sharif] We are still discussing and negotiating over the ideas presented by the Palestinian delegation. What we offered was a summation of the flexible and moderate PLO policy, and at the same time, a summary of our adherence to our legitimate national rights. As I said, we expect the U.S. Administration to prove its credibility as a full partner to the negotiations and to use its methods to persuade the Israeli Government to advance the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we say that U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting with the parties to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations this week is part of U.S. moves to promote the peace process?

[Abu-Sharif] These meetings, no doubt, fall within the framework of activating the U.S. role. We also expect the U.S. Administration to resume relations with the PLO as part of this activation. The U.S. Administration cannot really be a full partner, sitting with the PLO delegation to the negotiations, without restoring relations with the PLO. On the other hand, I believe that it is high time for the Israeli Government, and Rabin in particular, to deal with reality and not turn a blind eye to the facts. Dealing directly with the Palestinian leadership undoubtedly will facilitate and advance the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much, and you are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] You're welcome, Ashraf.

'Arafat Adviser on Israeli Proposal, Peace Process

JN0905185493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 May 93

[Interview by Sa'id Mu'addi with Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening to you.

[Mu'addi] You have been involved in the peace process right from the beginning. Do you think this ninth round is any different from its predecessors, and can you point to certain areas where there has been movement forward?

[Sha'th] This round is different in that it came after a five- month interruption as a result of the expulsion of Palestinians to Marj al-Zuhur; it is also different in that the preceding eight rounds had nothing to show for them. We are expected to produce results on both subjects, that is to be able to achieve something on the ground that would ease the burden on the Palestinian people and bring about the repatriation of the deportees. We had hoped to achieve something at the negotiating table that would give momentum to the peace process for which the Palestinian, Israeli, and Arab peoples hold out hopes in terms of a just peace, security, and the future.

[Mu'addi] Last weekend, the Israeli delegation presented to the Palestinian side an outline of the declaration of principles concerning the transition period. What are the points of agreement and disagreement between the two sides?

[Sha'th] The two sides have managed to substantially narrow their differences over the terms of reference of the peace process, namely UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They agreed that they should apply to the whole process and that the two [interim and final] stages be viewed as an interlinked whole so that the second stage builds on the first stage without the first prejudging the second. There has been a considerable bridging of our views on that point. The Israeli side has also agreed that the interim Palestinian government have legislative, executive, and judicial powers. Israel has also agreed that the occupied Palestinian land must be regarded as an indivisible territorial whole.

[Mu'addi] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has declared that the Israeli proposal is unacceptable to the PLO; however, the Palestinian negotiating team in Washington, while expressing its disappointment with the proposal, did not reject it outright. What do you think yourself, and what is the official PLO position on the Israeli proposal?

[Sha'th] The official PLO position on the Israeli paper was communicated to our delegation which is currently in Tunis for it to be put on the conference table. It is too early to say that the PLO rejected the plan before studying it. It may, though, that the PLO reaction was misrepresented by the media or some remarks were twisted out of their meaning. I believe, however, that the PLO and the negotiating team undertook a careful examination of the Israeli proposal over the past three days. The Palestinian reaction to the proposal will be communicated to the Israeli team tomorrow at the negotiating table.

[Mu'addi] One last question, Dr. Sha'th: You are considered to be an optimist in the Palestinian camp; do you think a joint declaration of principles is likely within the next week?

[Sha'th] The experience of the past few months leads one to think it is definitely possible. However, this will largely depend on the Israeli position in this coming week. I call on each and every member of the Israeli delegation and government to do all they can to render this round a success. This should sustain the momentum of the peace process and turn optimism into actual achievements for both our peoples.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Thank you very much.

[Sha'th] You are welcome.

'Text' of 'Arafat Letter to Jordanian MP's

JN0905103593 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 May 93

["Text" of message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the representatives of the Islamic Movement in the Jordanian Parliament "in reply to their message to him in which they expressed surprise at the PLO decision to participate in the current round of negotiations"—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs. [Koranic verse]

Representatives of the Islamic Movement

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

I have received your recent letter in which you have expressed surprise at the PLO decision to participate in the ninth round of talks. While I appreciate your concern to inform us of your opinion on the events, we would like to express our regret at the content of your letter which we consider an interference in national Palestinian affairs. As you are undoubtedly aware, decisions in the Palestinian arena are made through democratic means in our national, central, and executive councils far away from foreign intervention regardless of the forms and size of enticements. These bodies take into consideration the national interests of our people and nation to end the Israeli occupation of our land and holy places and to restore our people's inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing their independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Our people will continue [words indistinct] to defend their national decisionmaking [words indistinct] on the road of Palestine for which our people paid hundreds of thousands of [words indistinct], prisoners, detainees, and refugees.

What increases our bitterness and regret is that we expected you, the representatives of the Islamic Movement, to support the march of the holy jihad which our people have been waging for more than a quarter of a century and for which they have been shedding blood continuously despite the difficult and tough local, Arab, and international situation [word indistinct]. Our people have been waging the march of holy jihad under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative to raise the banners of our nation, our jihad, and [word indistinct] high over the (?walls), minarets, and churches of Jerusalem.

I would like to inform you that we view these negotiations as a battle that could be fiercer than the military battles in which the enemy is known. We are waging this battle on this basis. We ask Almighty God to help us fight this battle bravely.

Our examples are Arab Prophet Muhammad, who fought, negotiated, and reconciled enemies and who fought those who opposed agreements; our orthodox caliphs [word indistinct]; and our conquerors such as Khalid Bin-al-Walid and al-Nasir Salah al-Din, the liberator of Jerusalem, [words indistinct]. We are the only ones who are holding talks now and waging resistance at the same time while our intitfadah is raging [word indistinct] the holy jihad. (?Our objective, as you know,) is to regain Jerusalem and its surroundings and to save our people from the yoke of occupation. We do not say: Go thou, and thy Lord, and fight ye two, while we sit here. [Koranic verse] We say: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies, of Allah and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom Allah know. Whatever ye shall spend in the cause of Allah, shall be repaid unto you, and ye shall not be treated unjustly. [Koranic verses]

We ask God to grant us strength in these negotiations [words indistinct] but Allah will not fail in His promise. [part of a Koranic verse] Until all of us become ready in terms of mobilization and jihad to restore our national, religious, and historical rights to the lands of our ancestors, the land of Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to heaven and the land of Christ, peace be upon him, you will find us [words indistinct].

Praise be to God, we were able through persistence and endeavor to break the principle of deportation. We were able, thanks to our people's strong will and unwavering determination, to repatriate our beloved brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters of our militant people, to the land of their blessed homeland and to their [word indistinct] families from whom they were deported [words indistinct]. What you have seen on television is clear evidence of the need to attain achievements [words indistinct]. We are confident that very soon we will be able to return to the homeland our beloved brothers who are temporarily deported to Marj al-Zuhur. We will continue our efforts to repatriate thousands [words indistinct] who were unjustly deported through aggression. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily Allah is most powerful for their aid. They are those who

have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right, for no cause except that they say: "Our Lord is Allah." [Koranic verses]

Finally, I expected such an objection to go to all Arab participants in the bilateral and multilateral talks as the participation decision is a collective Arab decision. This in itself strengthens the position of our Arab negotiators in the face of opponents and enemies.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Lord! Decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide. [Koranic verse]

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. We will march together until we reach liberated Jerusalem with God's help.

Hamas Statement Observing New Month of Intifadah

JN0905192893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement in observance of a new month in the long life of the glorious intifadah. Addressing our masses, the Hamas statement says:

The general strike you observed when the Washington talks resumed proves that you are not fatigued from jihad and struggle. Hamas calls on business and factory proprietors in the occupied territories to take on as many workers as possible and to refrain from firing any, given the economic straits brought on by the closure and the military siege.

It calls for 15 May to be observed as a day of sit-ins and popular marches to mark the anniversary of the theft of Palestine and the establishment of the Zionist entity, as well as to express our people's rejection of occupation and the participation of the so-called Palestinian delegation in the talks.

The movment calls for 17 May to be observed as a day of general strike to mark the fifth monthly anniversary of the wrongful deportation order. It calls for 18-21 May to be observed as days of escalated resistance to enemy troops to mark the anniversary of the arrest of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the 'Uyun Qarah massacre.

The Hamas statement calls for 26-30 May to be observed as days of raising slogans and placards.

'Red Star' Claims Attack on Israeli Policeman

NC0705123393 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Amman, May 7 (AFP)—A hardline Palestinian group on Friday claimed an armed attack on an Israeli police officer who it said was wounded at dawn Thursday near Rehovot south of Tel Aviv.

In a communique received by AFP in Amman, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine's (DFLP) "Red Star" paramilitary arm, said one of its commando units had opened fire at 0200 GMT on the officer's vehicle, hitting him in the chest and arm.

The PFLP, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the officer was rushed to hospital where he remained in serious condition.

Police sources in Jerusalem said an unidentified gunman pumped five bullets with a revolver into the officer who was at a stoplight, wounding him in the chest and arm.

DFLP Hawatimah Says Saddam Opposes Peace Talks

JN0905105693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 May 93 p 16

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that the talks he held with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership dealt with the Middle East situation and the negotiation process—both the bilaterals and the multilaterals. Talks also dealt with the various Palestinian positions on the negotiations and the Arab and Iraqi situations.

In a comprehensive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B on his return from Baghdad, Hawatimah said his talks with President Saddam Husayn have clearly revealed that Iraq does not accept the current negotiations process, neither the bilaterals nor the multilaterals.

He added that Iraq has said that the negotiations are revolving in a vicious circle and are leading to a dead end because the U.S. Administration and the Israeli occupation authorities will not offer anything to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

The DFLP secretary general said that President Saddam emphasized that there have been several attempts to get Iraq to accept the Madrid process, but Iraq insisted on rejecting it.

He said there have been attempts to suggest that Iraq's acceptance of the formula and terms of Madrid [peace conference] and the current negotiations would provide an opportunity to alleviate the siege imposed on Iraq, and may be even lift it. Iraq did not accept this because acceptance would mean becoming involved in the same policy of double standards, which it had condemned, because the Madrid formula and terms are a long way from the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Hawatimah said that the Iraqi leadership told him that the latest attempt was made by Cardinal Achille Silverstrini, prefect of Oriental Congregations at the Vatican, who visited Iraq as a Papal envoy. He presented views, which he said were personal views and ideas, in which he called for an iraqi initiative to explore reactions.

The cardinal in effect called for an Iraqi initiative supporting the negotiation process in order to test the Israeli reaction. He said: President Saddam Husayn answered that if things go this way, then why the aggression against Iraq?

Hawatimah said: The Iraqi leadership will not accept what it rejected before the aggression. He said President Saddam told the DFLP delegation that the Iraqi position will remain firm.

Hawatimah said that his talks with the Iraqi leadership and his reading of the entire minutes of Saddam's meeting with the Papal envoy stressed that Iraq has clearly indicated that the Madrid formula and terms are unjust and will not be in the interest of the Palestinian people.

The DFLP secretary general said President Saddam Husayn had advised the Palestinian leaders he met to withdraw from these negotiations. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz also said that he had advised these leaders that Israel's rejection of Resolution 799 leaves the door wide open for Palestinian withdrawal from these negotiations, which are taking place far from the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Answering a question, Hawatimah said: All that we expected before the ninth round of negotiations has taken place. He added that he expected nothing new on the bilateral negotiations table, and that the ninth round will continue revolving in the same circle as the previous rounds.

He said: The Front has called for halting participation in the ninth round as long as all PLO factions say what we say. Abu-'Ammar [PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat] has stated that the results of the eight rounds were nil. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi [chief Palestinian delegate] recommended boycotting the ninth round and declared this just before he travelled to Washington.

Hawatimah said that the DFLP, as well as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Arab Liberation Front, a large number of nationalist personalities, Palestine National Council [PNC] members, the Hamas Movement, and the Islamic Jihad called for boycotting the negotiations in order to open the way for a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue within the PLO framework. This dialogue would be aimed at building national unity within the PLO, in its capacity as the deeply-rooted coalition of the Palestinian factions, on the joint national grounds that are based on recent PNC resolutions and resolutions of international legitimacy.

Hawatimah called for safeguarding the intifadah and entrenching national unity on patriotic bases because these are the strong weapons in our people's hands.

The DFLP secretary general called for rebuilding the Jordanian- Palestinian relations on sound bases that take into consideration the present and future situations. This will be aimed at forming a bridge to build relations with the Arab countries within the framework of serious and real coordination that opens the door for restoring Arab solidarity and realizing inter-Arab reconciliation.

He said: When the conservative wing within the PLO decided to go to Washington, the DFLP immediately called for a general strike on 27 April. The strike was fully observed in our country from Rafah to Janin, and extended to the refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria to demonstrate the position of the intifadah and the people, which call for halting the negotiations.

Hawatimah added: The occupation authorities will not present the promised package at the negotiating table. This was what happened and what Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi confirmed after the end of the first week of negotiations.

He said: The Israeli side then presented the self-rule draft plan at the beginning of the third week of negotiations. The draft plan gives administrative powers to the Palestinians and annexes Jerusalem and the settlements to Israel. He stressed: The head of the Palestinian negotiation delegation and most negotiation team members were unable to drink the poison of the administrative rule plan. The majority of the [PLO] Tunis leaders took a similar position and returned to speak about a dead end.

He said that those who went to the round of negotiations under Arab pressures discovered that they are reaping bitterness. He added that the return of 30 deportees was decided at the sixth round, and said: He who thinks that he can deceive anyone is mistaken. Rabin's little bribes will not last because the return of deportees is a natural right.

He said: The attempts to throw dust in the eyes have failed and will not harm the intifadah. The Palestinian meetings, which are being used as a cover, will not prevent the masses' anger.

Hawatimah called for resorting to the intifadah option as an alternative to the negotiations, which are taking place in Washington. He urged the Palestinian factions to adhere to national unity that is based on Palestinian legitimacy resolutions.

He said: Our sole option is the intifadah, and no negotiations can produce positive results if they are not based, in the first place, on the intifadah on the ground, and on national unity on the basis of the Palestinian legitimacy resolutions.

Hawatimah called for halting deterioration and division within the Palestinian ranks. He called for convening a new PNC session to review all that has happened in the past two years outside the legitimate establishments.

He said: We call for a new PNC session, or for a referendum for our people on the whole dark course, from Madrid until now.

Algeria

Ali Kafi Delivers Address to Nation 8 May

LD0905120393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 93

[Address to the nation by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

God's prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of His messengers.

Citizens: I address you with all humility on this historic day, 8 May. On this day in 1945, the Algerian people took to the streets in peaceful demonstrations to hoist the national flag and demand independence, sovereignty, freedom, and dignity, and to establish the Algerian state. These demonstrations were savagely repressed by the occupation forces while the entire world was celebrating the victory over fascism.

These events represented a crucial stage in the history of our nationalist movement and were the prelude to the outbreak of the glorious 1 November [1954] revolution, which blew up all the bridges and brought about the final rupture with colonialism.

On this occasion, we humbly pay homage to the martyrs of 8 May and to the martyrs of the glorious 1 November revolution. Regrettably, after the ordeals, the pains, and the great sacrifices made by our people so that Algeria could regain its place as a nation among nations, the Algerian people today find themselves facing new ordeals caused by barbaric groups that would like to destabilize the country and undermine the institutions of the Algerian state. There is no doubt that the attempts by these groups will be broken and will be doomed to failure, just as all the conspiracies which the Algerian people had to endure during the battle for liberation failed.

I also seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of cowardice, treachery, and indiscriminate terrorism. [passage omitted]

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the role of the national press in building the advanced society to which we all aspire. No doubt the freedom gained by the national press has made big progress and allowed the emergence of numerous talents of high efficiency in spite of the short life of the experiment and the state of emergency.

It should be recalled here that the state of emergency is geared toward fighting chaos, cleansing the country of terrorism and thievery, protecting private and public property against plunder and sabotage, and protecting our citizens.

Journalists, whose courage and patriotism we salute, should not underestimate the significance of their mission. They are aware that there can be no freedom without the spirit of responsibility. And this is the course which the Higher State Council wishes the family of journalists to realize by deepening their thinking and developing their practice.

Citizens, male and female, our country is today entering a new stage in realizing the program drawn up by the Higher State Council with the aim of restoring public order, achieving the stability of institutions, and cleaning up the national economy. In my speech of 14 January, we stressed our intention to mobilize all means necessary to eliminate the insecurity. Today we can go on record as saying that terrorism, which does not discriminate between any segments of the society, is being firmly confronted and that this confrontation will increase day by day from our security forces. Security issues have been taken care of within the framework of full respect for the individual and for the collective rights of citizens. Our judicial system is functioning according to the provisions of law.

The state's institutions, which were neglected in recent years and exposed to severe disturbances due to the events our country experienced, have began to recover their vitality and effectiveness. The authority of these institutions has been consolidated, thanks to the recovery of the state's prestige and our intolerance of any action that may do harm to the state or infringe on its authority.

As well as consolidating the state's authority we will continue with our endeavors to enrich the culture of public life and cleanse it off all ills that might harm society and its values.

Citizens, internal events—however serious they might be—have not prevented Algeria from playing its international role and regaining the dynamism of its diplomacy. The Higher State Council has endeavored to revive and reactivate our diplomatic work. And thanks to these endeavors, we have been able at regional level to resolve the problem of boundary demarcation with our Tunisian brothers. Furthermore, Algeria will not spare any efforts to help consolidate stability in the region and revive the necessary cooperation between Maghreban countries, in addition to cooperating with our partners. [passage omitted]

Citizens, the Higher State Council announced at the beginning of this year its commitment to open a sincere dialogue with political societies and social and economic organizations, as well as with civil society as a whole. The dialogue has taken place in accordance with an agenda which is a framework for discussion, and has been enriched by proposals from interlocutors. Eleven parties, four trade and social syndicates, six societies representing public and private employers, and 87 societies representing civil society have taken part in the dialogue.

Most interest was focused upon the best ways and means of mobilizing the country to get it out of the crisis. We would like to put on record our satisfaction with the results that have been achieved during these consultations, which have consolidated the Higher State Council's view and its program for overcoming the crisis. The organizations that took part in the dialogue have come up with ideas and proposals that will help us determine the stages we ought to go through in order to achieve stability in the country and in order to make the national program, which we have been working on and trying to explain, clearer.

All parties to the dialogue agreed to condemn terrorism and set up a republican system that should guarantee a pluralism in which power will alternate and the freedom and rights of individuals and groups will be protected. Participants in the dialogue also agreed on the need for a transitional period in order to prepare the necessary conditions to return national political life to normal. They expressed the hope that such a transitional period, which we hope will be as short as possible, will be used to restore the security of individuals and property, ensure better management of central and local administration, restore major economic and financial balances, and revive the economic reforms that are needed by the country.

I would like to remind you here that real democracy can only be built on the basis of steady economic development. All the studies carried out in this field confirm to us that the continuation of the project of economic and social development for our country compels us to have a great deal of vision and resolve in our economic endeavor because the increasing social demands against limited financial resources require that we adopt a policy which restores the pace of our economic development.

Therefore, freedom of enterprise, the gradual removal of the administrative and bureaucratic management of our economy, and the restructuring of our industry make it imperative to improve our means of production, open up toward the outside world, introduce competition into our economy, and implement a bold agricultural policy.

All these actions will inevitably be achieved, and to be more precise, the transition to a market economy will take place in an orderly manner. I reaffirm here that these transformations, which should be introduced to our economy, cannot be made at the expense of our fundamental principles of social justice. These principles were entrenched by the nationalist movement and constitute one of the main foundations of our revolution. The Algerian state will maintain its role in this field and will endeavor to protect the most deprived sections of society.

In this transitional period, we must be alert to guarantee the political continuation of the state through all the stages of this development, be it in connection with the implementation of the basic choices related to internal policy, or those connected with respecting our country's commitments in the sphere of international relations.

In accordance with the submitted proposals and views in this round of dialogue, and in light of experience, it is necessary at this time to correct and complete the collection of laws governing the multiparty political system we aim to establish.

Through our country's democratic exercise, it is possible for us to affirm the pedagogic importance of this transitional period, be it in connection with the state's institutions, or in connection with the parties, in these common efforts we are all making to establish the new political, economic, and social system we are striving to establish.

At this stage, the Consultative Council will be expanded in the direction of the political societies, social and economic organizations, and collective movements; its powers will be consolidated; and it will assume an important role.

Citizens, ladies and gentlemen, as I announced in my speech of 14 January, the program of the transitional period will be submitted to Algerians in a people's referendum. Since that date, we have been working assiduously to provide the necessary political and technical conditions to hold the referendum before the end of the current year. In this connection, dialogue will continue and will be deepened with the political and social partners. The forthcoming round of consultations will be devoted to the clarification of the contents of the project around which agreement can be reached, and which will enable the defining of means and measures for its approval.

The Higher State Council renews its readiness for a dialogue with all political and social forces, except for those who engage in terrorism or call for it. Political and social forces must be mobilized and cooperate to provide the necessary conditions to ensure the success of the program of the transitional period and to facilitate the return to course of elections.

Fellow Algerians, our country has started the course of building a national, democratic system that allows all male and female Algerians to free their initiatives and enables them to achieve individual and social progress.

We are destined to succeed in establishing a modern state that guarantees prosperity for our values and enables us to acquire the sciences and the necessary technologies to continue our social and civilized advancement.

There are challenges ahead. We remain confident that our people have the capacity to respond to them.

May God guide us toward the good and happiness of the nation and toward the soundness of opinion and its application.

Peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you.

Boumediene Airport Bomb Suspects' Trial Resumes

LD0805191193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] The trial of those implicated in the Houari Boumediene International Airport bombing resumed today in the Algiers Special Court. More details from radio correspondent Mohamed Challouche.

[Challouche] It is clear in this trial that the defense is trying to come up with a strategy that would spare some of the defendants facing the weight of the numerous and diverse charges. This strategy began with the tactic of an almost complete withdrawal, but the consequences of Article 24 of the ordinance, which amends the law on combating terrorism and sabotage, led the defense, of whom the majority are lawyers automatically appointed, to change its strategy; consequently the position changed from one of withdrawal to one where the defense increased their interventions with more of their observations and requests, or what is known in legal terminology as pleas. [passage omitted]

The Presidency of the Council accepted the defense's requests for separation from the airport case for only four of the accused. These four are the lawyer Ali Zoueita, Namouchi Fouad, Tahari Salim, and Maarif Said. After this decision was read out, the four accused were ordered to be removed from the court.

Some of the lawyers automatically appointed also asked to examine the statements of the accused, while others presented testimonies, most of which show that the civil claim by Air France against some of the accused was presented only after the decision to refer the case was read out.

Among the noteworthy incidents was the announcement by the presiding judge of his decision not to bring the accused Meliani Mansouri before the court, in order to preserve the safety and security of the policemen who accompany him to the courtroom. He indicated that this accused would attend only when his turn came to give his testimony. Another accused did not attend because he is being resuscitated. He is called Boulasba Youcef. But he was not the only one to be absent, because his lawyer did not turn up either. Here the chairman of the council noted that if the lawyer continued to be absent, he would face punitive measures. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa: Peace Talks Moving on 'Right Track'

NC0805153293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa declared today that the peace negotiations in Washington are moving on the right track. He said there will be progress and successes and even if there are difficulties, this is natural in any negotiations.

Musa added that reports received by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry indicate that the negotiations are proceeding in the manner hoped for and that they are touching on substantive issues.

Concerning the effect that Israel's actions in the occupied territories have on the peace process, Musa declared that new methods must be used in dealing with the occupied territories' citizens and that the closure of Gaza and the West Bank must be ended to foster a new atmosphere that will boost progress toward peace.

The foreign minister affirmed that Egyptian efforts are continuing to return the Palestinian deportees and improve the conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Asked if Morocco will attend the OAU's next summit in Cairo, 'Amr Musa said: "All OAU members have received invitations but I do not think that Morocco will attend this summit. It withdrew from the OAU but we would welcome it if it decided to attend and return to the organization."

Commenting on the so-called Bosnian Serb parliament's rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan, Musa declared that only a "bold decision" by influential countries can end the massacres and put a stop to the current Serbian deception. He said the so-called Bosnian Serb parliament's rejection of the plan is proof of the Serbian conspiracy against Bosnia's territorial integrity, the Bosnian state, the Bosnian Muslims, and the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina in general.

He stressed that unless there is an immediate, quick, and bold intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina, there will be a big question mark on the possibility of dealing with major crises elsewhere.

Asked about the Damascus Declaration, Musa said that the foreign ministers of declaration signatories will meet in Abu Dhabi on 12 June. He pointed out that this will follow a meeting of the signatories' finance and economy ministers scheduled for 18 May.

AFP: Pakistan Deports 230 Egyptian Militants

NC0805140393 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 8 (AFP)—Pakistan has deported to Sudan 230 Egyptian Muslim militants who are wanted in Egypt in connection with a wave of fundamentalist unrest, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

Egypt initiated discussions with Pakistan several weeks ago for the repatriation of these militants—Afghan war veterans who settled in Peshawar after the fall of the communist regime in Kabul.

An Egyptian security source last week charged that Afghan veterans, estimated officially at 1,500, finance and set up terrorist operations carried out by fundamentalists in Egypt to destabilise the government.

Some 140 people have been killed in fundamentalist violence since March 1992, including three foreign tourists.

Pakistan's alleged deportation of 230 militants has angered the Egyptian authorities.

"Pakistan should have handed over these terrorists to Egypt because their presence at the Egyptian-Sudanese border is a time- bomb," the official who declined to be identified told AFP.

"Pakistan opted for a compromise" by expelling them to Sudan rather than to Egypt, he said.

Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, according to the official, acted as a middle man between Pakistan, Sudan and the militants to finance their trip and accommodations in Sudan.

Bin-Ladin "pretends to be an Islamic militant. He is wanted by the Saudi authorities for activities hostile to the government in that country," another official at the Foreign Ministry said.

Egypt meanwhile reinforced security at the more than 1,000-kilometer (620 mile) border with Sudan to prevent the militants from infiltrating into the country.

U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Islamic Groups Aired

NC0805064893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau has denied reports that the embassy has any relations with the Islamic groups in Egypt, stressing that it is not seeking to have such relations.

In a statement to the weekly paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM published today, Pelletreau said: We in the embassy are not seeking at all to hold any contacts with criminals, terrorists, or those who use violence against peaceful citizens.

On the issue of [Islamic Group Mufti] Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman, the U.S. ambassador said that the U.S. Administration's stand on 'Abd-al-Rahman is clear, namely that it supports his deportation from the United States because he entered it under false pretenses. Pelletreau stressed that U.S. officials have no relations or working contacts with 'Abd-al-Rahman and that there were no such contacts, as was reported, during the U.S. support for the Afghan mojahedin in their war against the former communist regime in Afghanistan.

Mubarak, Delegation Leave on 8-Day Gulf Tour

NC0905101793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Muscat on the first leg of an eight-day tour that will take him to Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Saudi Arabia.

MENA has learned that Mubarak will hold talks and consultations with the leaders of these states on several issues, including Arab security, the situation in the Gulf, and strengthening relations between Egypt and these states in the economic and joint investment fields.

Mubarak's talks also will focus on Arab coordination in fighting terrorism and eliminating extremism. They will deal with ways to promote the Middle East peace talks, overcome the obstacles to these talks, and achieve the required results with a view to establishing peace and stability in the region.

Moreover, the talks will deal with the international situation with particular emphasis on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mubarak is accompanied on this tour by an official delegation including Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Interviewed

NC0905171793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Muscat, 9 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak described his tour to the Arab Gulf states as extremely fruitful from several aspects, be they on the Arab, regional, or international level, as well as on the level of Egypt's relations with these sisterly states.

In a statement to journalists accompanying him, Mubarak noted that his consultations with the brother kings and presidents of these states will deal with all issues related to peace, cooperation, and development of interest to the Gulf region and to Egypt.

Mubarak discussed the reason a cabinet change will have to wait until after July. He said: We have some matters that must be completed, including negotiations with the IMF and signing an agreement with it, completing the drafting of the general budget, and the drafting of a number of laws, such as the unified tax and unified labor laws, so that they can be referred to the People's Assembly. Mubarak added: I believe in telling the people all the facts so that we can work together to remedy problems and overcome obstacles. I do not believe in hiding or covering up facts. Mubarak added: I always search for qualified Egyptians to share the responsibility. He praised Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government, adding: I say for the record that Dr. Sidqi's government has worked,

and is working, with matchless efficiency and has undertaken the task of the economic reform process with full responsibility and accuracy after careful study. The prime minister himself stands out as an extremely hard worker who studies everything carefully. Mubarak noted that had not the government of Dr. Sidqi stayed all that time, it would not have achieved the great accomplishment that it did.

Asked whether a businessman who knows the market or someone from the current cabinet will head the next government, Mubarak said: Each choice has its advantages and disadvantages. If a businessman heads the government it will be helpful because he will bring new blood into government work, but at the same time the disadvantage of such a choice could be that such a person may not be able to continue what his predecessor started. As for choosing someone from the cabinet, the advantage is that he will ensure a sense of continuity and follow up of work, but the negative side is that he may stick to old ideas that could obstruct progress, he added.

The president stressed that what is important for him is that change must be well-studied, in line with the people's interests, and meet public requirements. He noted that a change is possible after July, but it will be made according to the requirements necessitated by national action. Mubarak added: We are passing through an extremely difficult period and any miscalculated step could be harmful and result in losses that we can do without.

Turning to the economic reform, Mubarak said that the initial stage of reforms and the agreement with the IMF entailed some burdens, which the citizens tolerated to achieve true reforms, but this stage does not entail new burdens against low-income people. He noted that the Egyptian economic delegation's talks in Washington with the IMF have led to an agreement in principle, adding that there are no differences with the IMF. He added: We are in agreement on everything and an IMF team will arrive in Cairo on 14 May to continue the talks that started in Washington; after that we will go to the Paris Club to have 15 percent of our debts waived. The president noted that the final touches to the draft final agreement with the IMF are now being made, and it is expected to be signed at the end of May or beginning of June.

Mubarak emphasized the need to stand up to terrorism firmly and strongly, noting that there can be no negotiations with terrorists. He urged citizens to actively participate in confronting terrorism and to notify the authorities about them without hesitation. He pointed out that the people must watch out for any suspicious behavior and those who possess explosives to destroy the economy and terrify innocent people. He noted that the terrorists are after factories, tourism, and investment, be it Egyptian or foreign, so that production will come to a complete halt, the streets will be full of jobless people, and the country will be in ruin. He reiterated that the confrontation is the responsibility of everybody, the government and the people, and that there can be no dialogue with those who carry arms and practice terrorism. He stressed that the state will not refrain from placing all resources at the disposal of policemen, who are confronting terrorism and terrorists with honor.

Musa Comments on Tour, Peace Talks

NC0905210293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] In an exclusive statement to Cairo radio, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Arab and Gulf security and the challenges facing it will top the list of topics President Husni Mubarak will discuss with Gulf leaders. These and other issues are part of the fateful Arab issues requiring direct, honest, and continued consultations, Musa said.

The foreign minister added that the president's talks aim at promoting development in the Arab world and at establishing peace, stability, and joint cooperation.

Asked if he is optimistic over the 9th round of peace talks, Musa said that he would prefer to use the term cautious optimism. In other words, we should not be completely optimistic and we should not be pessimistic. However, I can say that optimism outweighs pessimism, he added.

To a question if proposals by the sides concerned with the peace process would produce progress in the peace process, Musa said: The documents and proposals being submitted by the sides, be they the Palestinians, Israelis, Syrians, Lebanese, or Jordanians, according to our information, have started to deal with the essence of the issue. These proposals are no longer dealing with general topics, specifying dates for talks, or discussing procedural issues. The proposals are now talking about what should be done.

Musa said: The issue discussed between Syria and Israel, for example, is about the comprehensive and complete withdrawal and comprehensive peace. As for the Palestinian-Israeli track, the talks revolve around the establishment of full self-rule for the Palestinians and the framework, duration, and future of this self- rule.

The foreign minister added: As for the Israeli-Lebanese talks, the two sides are discussing the issue of the security strip and Israel's withdrawal in accordance with Resolution 425. They are also discussing the issue of the formation of committees within the context of these talks.

Foreign Ministry Source on Sudanese Allegations

NC1005104693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—A responsible Foreign Ministry source has reiterated that Egypt's relations with the Sudanese people can overcome any fabricated crisis and that these relations are too strong to be influenced by irresponsible conduct or decisions.

These remarks were made in response to Sudan's attempts to escalate the situation in Hala'ib and to allegations recently made by Sudanese officials.

Two Policemen Killed, Third Wounded in al-Qusiyah

NC0905143093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Commenting on the events that took place in Asyut Governorate today, a responsible security source pointed out that at approximately 1030 this morning, unidentified persons shot First Lieutenant Yahya Ahmad 'Abd-al-Malik, assistant chief intelligence officer of al-Qusiyah, as he was leaving home for work, killing him instantly. Sergeant Ramadan 'Abd-al-Karim Mas'ud [name and rank as received] died of his wounds while on his way to the hospital, after having been shot by unidentified persons while standing guard at a Catholic church.

The source added that policeman Fathi Naji Ahmad, who had been standing guard at al-Zarabi church in al-Qusiyah, was wounded when he came under fire by unidentified persons. The source noted that the attackers fled after the incidents. The assistant interior minister for the Upper Egypt zone, Asyut security chief, and leading security officials in the region went to the scene of the incidents, the security source added, noting that security men are trying to identify and arrest the attackers.

Trial of Minister's Attackers Postponed

NC0805142593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—The Higher Military Court, in its public session held today, decided to postpone the trial of the defendants involved in the assassination attempt of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and other terrorist crimes until Saturday [15 May]. The other crimes include murdering policemen and civilians, causing deliberate damage to tourist buses and government buildings, and illegal possession of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

The court was presided over by Major General Ahmad 'Abdallah, assisted by Brigadier General Hamid al-Sayyid Hasanu and Colonel Muhammad Shamil 'Ali Ramzi. The military prosecution was represented by Brigadier General 'Ali Bibars, Lieutenant Colonel 'Izz-al-Din 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Warrant Officer 'Id 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Amir. The court decided to call the prosecution witnesses. It also decided to refer seventh defendant Husam Mahmud 'Abd-al-Latif to the medical examiner's office to determine the nature and date of his injuries and the tool used to inflict them and remanded all defendants in custody.

At the beginning of the session, the court president called the names of the 14 defendants; four of them are still at large. According to Brig. Gen. Bibars, they are the first, 10th, 11th, and 12th defendants. The court president then read the indictment bill to the defendants present at the session. They all pleaded not guilty on all counts. The defense panel, made up of nine lawyers, called for transferring all defendants to a public prison and referring some of them to the medical examiner's office to determine the nature of their injuries. [passage omitted]

'Militants' Arrested, Weapons Seized

NC0705131293 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 7 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities on Friday announced the arrests of 18 Muslim militants, weapons seizures and the removal of fundamentalists from their teaching jobs in private schools.

The 18 were arrested in Rummanah, 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of the Suez Canal and al-'Arish, the main town in the northern Sinai peninsula and on the Mediterranean coast, police said.

The police said they also seized anti-government leaflets in the raid.

Farther inland in the village of Shaykh Zuwayd, they captured weapons, including 110 assault rifles and five kilograms (11 pounds) of explosives.

The Sinai peninsula, like Upper (southern) Egypt, is known as a center for arms trafficking.

The fundamentalists had fled to the Sinai to avoid police in the Cairo and Nile Delta regions, police said.

In another development, Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al- Din said in an interview published Friday that teachers advocating Islamic revolution in Egypt's private schools had lost their jobs.

He told the pro-government AL-AHRAM newspaper that the teachers were instead assigned to administrative work in line with measures to "end attempts by extremists to spread their ideology."

Last week a professor of French in Damietta province, north of Cairo, was withdrawn from his teaching post for having given his pupils cassettes calling "for an Islamic regime."

The minister did not say how many teachers were removed.

Such teachers are among extremists accused of perpetrating attacks against Western tourists and police officers in the past several months, he added.

Programs in "Islamic" schools—founded and financed by Islamic militants and usually attended by wealthy students—were different from those in government-run institutions and could undermine nationaly unity, he said.

Officially, between 1,500 and 2,000 militants have been arrested since the latest wave of extremist violence in Egypt last fall.

Libya

Congress Urges Saudi King To Allow Pilgrimage Flights

LD0905194793 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 93

[Message to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia from the Libyan General People's Congress meeting in Surt, read by the General People's Congress "secretary for foreign affairs"—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Proclaim among men the hajj, and they shall come unto thee on foot and upon every lean beast, they shall come from every deep ravine [Koranic verse].

To King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz: As the General People's Congress—consisting of the Basic People's Congresses, the people's committees, the trade unions, and vocational associations—concludes its session for the drafting of the agenda of the Basic People's Congresses, Muslims from every part of the world are travelling to holy Mecca to perform the hajj rites, while the hearts of the Arab Muslims in the Great Jamahiriyah are longing for the holy places. However, the resolutions imposed by the Christian states, as an injustice and an aggression, prevent the Libyans from performing the hajj rites unless permission is given to them by these states. This is unacceptable to the Muslim Libyan Arab people [applause].

The General People's Congress believes that the holy places should not be subjected to the vagaries of international politics and their contradictions, but should always be open to the Muslims of the world, whenever they like and however they like [as heard]. The General People's Congress also believes that subjecting the holy places to political changes is incompatible with God's wishes since he wants them to be places of safety and worship [chants]. The road to Mecca and Medina must remain open and should not be subjected to any blockade or embargo, whatever its origin.

The General People's Congress exhorts you to reject this [UN] resolution and open the way to the Muslim Libyan Arabs, so that they may arrive by air on direct flights from their country to Mecca and Medina to perform their hajj duty. This is a historical responsibility which you shoulder before God and the Muslims in your capacity as custodian of the two holy mosques so that the permanent Islamic laws are upheld.

The General People's Congress also warns that submission to such resolutions will be an incentive for the Muslims to review the status of the holy places and their administration in order to ensure that they are not subjected to the vagaries of international politics and to keep them safe from any embargo and blockade.

God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you.

The General People's Congress, Surt, 9 May 1993 [chants].

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Address to Congress

LD0905142593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1612 GMT 8 May 93

[Address by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to a session of the General People's Congress in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] To begin with, please pardon me, this is the first session since the General People's Secretariat—the General People's Committee Secretariat—lost one of its militants—Ibrahim Bakkar; we must say prayers for his soul. [passage omitted]

In the name of God, I would like to talk about some of the points which concern the revolution and the people's authority. It is not about administrative and political responsibility that concerns the popular congresses and the popular committee. Perhaps with these points I may contribute toward entrenching the people's authority and advancing the building of the jamahiri system.

I hope that I will not be too long. It is a foregone conclusion that the Libyan people—the free Libyan people after the revolution—had decided that the transformation would take place democratically through the free masses and not highhandedly, and this would be through the Basic People's Congresses and by no other method except the democratic method. Thus, the revolution would remain permanent. Now we are at a stage that requires a pause to reexamine what the revolution had provided and decide the plan of the coming stage for the continuation of the revolution through the free popular will.

We have self-confidence and will continue to move forward with confidence now that the failure of the first and second world theories has been confirmed and now the wager is on the third world theory. The white book and the red book have fallen and now the wager is on the Green Book worldwide [applause] after the collapse of the governmental regimes and the steadfastness of the popular jamahiri system.

After the collapse of governmental systems and the perseverance of the people's jamahiri system, I believe that the Libyan people have become responsible before the peoples of the world for pioneering and leading the world in the voyage of liberation from tyranny and exploitation, and in the fight for the jamaihriyah, people's socialism, and peace. [passage omitted]

This table [al-Qadhdhafi points to diagram behind him] will solve your problem. The table itself is not that important, but its content is. We should remember not to quarrel about people's authority. For what are you doing

here if it had not been for the people's authority? Our whole system is based upon the people's authority. [al-Qadhdhafi gestures to diagram] This is the Secretariat of the General People's Committee; i.e., this is Mr. X and his staff who form the Secretariat of the General People's Committee. And this is the secretary of the General People's Committee. If we wipe off the Secretariat and leave only Mr. X, we are left then with the secretary of the General People's Committee and the communes where there is a secretary for each commune's people's committee. This way the commune's secretary should have direct contact with Mr. X who, in this capacity, is the secretary of the General People's Committee. [applause] Mr. X's daily or weekly administrative work would therefore be keeping in touch with his committee's members, who are now the secretaries of the General People's Committees in the communes, who constitute half of the people present here today. Would the secretaries of the communes' people's committees stand up please. Those standing are the General People's Committee, and this is its secretariat whose secretary general is Mr. X. Those who still sitting should remain the secretaries of the [communes'] committees. [applause] [passage omitted]

The administrative work will therefore, thanks to this new method, be restricted between the Secretariat of the General People's Committee—i.e., to those who are sitting here in front of me—and between the communes. Mr. X will be dealing with the secretaries of the people's committees at the communes and those members, who are with him, should deal with their members at the communes. [sentence as heard] Of course, sometimes there is a public amenity in a commune that serves more than one commune, and therefore its management should not be left to one commune. Something central should be set up. There should no longer be anything intermediary—like the coordination bureaus—preventing direct contact between the base and its secretariat. [applause] The so-called coordination bureaus should be abolished immediately. [applause and chants] [passage omitted]

Consequently, all the sectors, which you believe are central, are serving the communes—this is what I mean. One should look for another role for these sectors. This is the solution; this is clear now. [passage omitted]

With regard to the body in charge of protecting the environment, it should be just like public security. It can transfer 50 vehicles to spray insecticides, for example, to a region hit by an epidemic that affects agriculture, or what have you. The boundaries of a commune should not matter. [passage omitted]

What we should oppose and not tolerate is doubting people. We should not sow doubts to the effect that if there is still a people's committee in the commune it will wreck the commune. How can it wreck its own commune? Who says it will? Honestly, I do not accept this. This means that we doubt everyone. [applause] Even if this stems from concern and responsibility, I cannot say that the people's committee of the commune will wreck the situation. Even if we suppose that such a thing happens, you have laws, courts, people's congresses, and [competent] people. If someone wrecks their commune, so be it. [sentence as heard] There are laws in force. Nobody can come and cut down all the trees in a commune and turn the land into a building site because there is a law on the protection of agricultural land. The member of the people's committee of the commune in charge of agriculture and land reclamation is responsible for the implementation of this law on behalf of his committee. He is there to uphold this law and implement it. [passage omitted]

I would like to talk about the matter of the distribution of oil revenue. A few months ago, I addressed you from this platform and told you the following. I have recorded evidence of what I said—unless some people distorted my speech and replaced one word for another. [passage omitted]

I told you that you were entitled to take the money, but according to some conditions, and I would like to repeat the some point here. Your debates at your congresses were similar to these people [words indistinct]. You ignored the conditions and demanded an immediate delivery of the money. We do not question the issue of money here; however, you continue to ignore the conditions.

This is what I told you in the past from this place: the distribution of this money should be conditional on some restrictions; failing that, this will expose our country to a catastrophe. This is what I told you. As long as you do not insist on conditions vis-a-vis the receipt of oil money directly, this could throw the country in a catastrophe. I am responsible for what I say, and I am aware of what I am saying. This is exactly what I had told you. Why did you not pay attention to this?

I told you either you put some conditions on the receipt of the money or if you do not name conditions, which would be binding, this would lead to a disaster. Receiving money just like that means a catastrophe; obtaining money according to conditions would be alright and it can work.

Consequently, one should formulate a wise policy, otherwise we would lose our right vis-a-vis the wealth of our country—this is another paragraph from the speech I delivered. We have no right to use our wealth if it means squandering it. I told to hold congresses, establish conditions and formulate a wise policy [words indistinct]. This policy warrants expertise, knowledge, and understanding. Everybody should join you in the debates; for example, those who own oil, bankers, economists, and account holders—they should explain to you in detail the significance of this policy.

There should be no going back on this; there should be no maneuvers nor any beating around the bush. This is clear, money is there, you can use it, but according to

conditions. You should set conditions. And as I said, anything other than this would result in a disaster. [passage omitted]

We should abolish the role of this middleman. We say the people own the money; the people should use it and manage it. This is my view on this point.

I said this should mean a policy for export, import, consumption, taxes, and tariffs in such a way as to make all Libyans equal. The idea behind taxes and tariffs is to make all Libyans equal, and there will no longer be a poor Libyan, who needs support, and a rich one. There is no justification for such inequality. You must draw up policies for export, import, and consumption. We should have something to make us equal, which would lead us to a jamahiri system. [passage omitted]

I told you we should only divide oil [revenues] after deducting the amount needed for public projects. I told you so in my speech. [passage omitted] Why have I not yet heard that you have discussed those conditions? Why have you not yet sat down in order to draw up a good policy to receive your money? It is a serious responsibility. I am still determined that oil revenues should be received by you Libyans. Of course the state needs revenues; we still have a government. The state will find revenues whether it has oil or not. Oil is, however, a wealth that is being gained effortlessly and it is owned by all Libyans. I am still insisting that its revenues should be divided among you directly. [passage omitted] The money that is to be given to you is, however, your responsibility. Therefore, you should meet at the people's congresses in order to discuss the conditions and draw up a wise policy.

There is a point I would like to explain to you. This may not be the time, but it has to be explained nevertheless. It concerns hard currency. I have been telling and begging Dr. Zlitni, [governor] of the Central Bank, for well over two years now that since you are shouldering this responsibility and you are going to deal in hard currency and in black gold, you should explain to the Libyan people and make them understand this issue. He has not done so; he has spoken about this only once.

If I have 10,000 Libyan dinars and I go to Dr. Zlitni and ask him to convert them for me [into hard currency], he refuses. I get angry and curse everyone. I scream and say it is my money and I have worked and sweated for it. This money is not acceptable outside Libya. No matter how many dinars you earn inside Libya, they would not be acceptable abroad and you would not be able to get dollars for them. You would only get dollars when you sell your labor, or something you produced in Libya, abroad and you thereby earn hard currency and deposit it in the Central Bank and then go and ask for it back so that you can use it abroad. Then you are free to do so. Not all dinar earnings are convertible to hard currency. Hard currency is earned either through oil sales or exports. You have first to look at what Libya is exporting to other countries and how much hard currency it is earning before you come and ask for your dinars to be converted into hard currency. The bank keeps issuing hard currency until it runs out and from then on it would not be in a position to issue hard currency no matter how many millions of dinars we dispose in it, the bank would not be able to offer any hard currency in exchange, because it does not have foreign currency.

Hard currency from your point of view is the oil earnings and the returns you earn for things you sell abroad, other than oil, such as oil by-products, other industrial and agricultural products and foreign investments, if you have any. These earn only hundreds of millions whereas oil earns around 8 to 10 billion American dollars. This is the hard currency that the bank can exchange for you. But if you present the bank with 20 billion Libyan dinars, it would only give hard currency equivalent to half of it, the rest would remain piled up inside Libya. The bank cannot transfer it for you abroad because nobody would take it.

This discrepancy could only be overcome by producing Libyan products that would earn foreign currency in large amounts and have them deposited in private and public accounts. The only way to earn foreign currency is to produce in Libya and sell abroad for foreign currency. [passage omitted]

Another way to solve this problem is to study the possibility of freeing the Libyan dinar. This should now be put on your agenda for discussion here. The Libyan people should debate the viability of whether or not the Libyan dinar should be allowed to be made acceptable abroad. I tell you right now, and I have already discussed this with some people here, that we found that only the currencies of the seven industrial states—the United States, Canada, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan, plus some other small countries in Western Europe—are free. The reason is that the world is flooded with their products and that is why they have hard currency in heaps. [passage omitted] We also found that the currency of the Gulf states in Arabia—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and perhaps Abu Dhabi—is also free—acceptable—as legal tender anywhere, because they have huge earnings. Saudi Arabia's income amounts to 50 billion dollars a year; it exports 8 million barrels a day. Libya exports 1.3 million barrels a day. [passage omitted]

If you wish your currency to become convertible so you can use it anywhere in the world as legal tender, then make a decision to that effect. However, experts must be involved in the discussion to tell you what risks this entails and whether it would be for your benefit or not and whether we can face up to it or not. That way we can eliminate this problem with hard currency. But, as I told you before, this could only be done when there is adequate production, or else it would be catastrophic. [passage omitted]

I would like you to understand this. All we do now is to go the bank and say: Change our money, this is our

money. Yes, it is your money but this money cannot be taken abroad. I will go back to the example I gave you earlier: you can take your money [from the oil revenues], but we have to draw up a policy in order to dispose of that money. According to the piece of paper in front of me, the oil money is shared out. How will it be disposed of this year? The matter will be discussed by the people's committees.

The report says that the enterprise for goods and supplies imports food for the Libyan people worth $600 million. Where is this money coming from? You sold oil and you took $600 million, and the enterprise took this money and went to foreign markets to buy flour, rice, oils, tinned food, tea, sugar, and other consumer goods. The enterprise gave the $600 million of oil money back to the states which bought the oil and in return they gave us food products. Then we put these products on the market; so when you go to the market you will find flour, rice, tea and sugar. How did we get that? We got it with hard currency. If you had not sold oil you would not have had any money to buy these things. Even if you had huge sums of Libyan money, you could not buy rice from abroad with it. If you offer Libyan dinars, nobody will accept them, not even Egypt. The Libyan dinar is for domestic circulation. [passage omitted]

I can go to Zilitni [governor of the Libyan Central Bank] and tell him: Take this million Libyan dinars and give me $3 million. What will I do with them? I will buy a factory for the manufacture of clothes with the money, I will reply. That is reasonable. The bank will then be temporarily losing $3 million, which is hard currency. It will give that money to you and transfer it for you abroad where you will buy a factory to manufacture clothes. These clothes will either meet the demand on the Libyan market so that we no longer have to import them with hard currency, or else these clothes are sold abroad and the hard currency is brought back into the country. In other words, after one or two years that factory would either have returned our $3 million or saved us the same amount in the local currency, i.e. in local goods. There is no danger in this. When the bank takes your dinars and converts them into dollars and you use them to bring something productive, this is reasonable provided there is enough money available in the bank. The bank has $10 billion and when this is spent, it cannot change any money for you.

We should understand this operation of currency convertibility and hard currency. If you come to me and tell me: Mr. Zilitni, I am giving you 10 billion Libyan dinars, could you please give me their equivalent in hard currency; I want to use the money for medical treatment. We agree that medical treatment in a human issue which should be taken into consideration. However, in reality, this money will be spent and will yield no return; if you say that I want to use the money to travel around as a tourist, this would be wasted money; however, if you say that I want to use the hard currency toward the purchase of cows, this would be a logical thing to do because these cows will give me milk therefore I will not have to buy this milk from abroad; this would be like the equivalent of obtaining hard currency. You are free to sell the product from these cows abroad and bring in hard currency which you can deposit in banks as your own property. [passage omitted]

What I mean here is that money is available, it should be put at your disposal; as I promised you before from this platform, dealing in this money should be conditioned by drawing up a policy based on knowledge and responsibility; because responsibility is knowledge as the saying goes; who has no degree of knowledge should not be trusted with responsibility; the Koran warns against squandering one's wealth. [passage omitted]

I repeat that there is no problem regarding the availability of money, unless our oil dries up, God forbid; then this would be another issue for which we all shoulder responsibility.

However, with the current situation we have no problem on the availability of money; the problem lies in how to manage this money.

A census should be started as from now by computer to establish the number of Libyan families which are receiving the basic salary. These are considered to be poor at the present time. Then, we come to the various job scales. Administrative functions are to be cancelled, however, we know that those who are on scales one, two, three, etc all have very low income and are poor. This census will have to apply to all Libyans, and I still stand by what I said. Then, people will have to be told, for example, Ali Sha'iri has 10,000 dollars or dinars. These sums are decided at the level of the people's congresses either according to the number of individuals or families. This is to say, each Libyan gets 1,000 or each family gets 10,000. The finance or bank officials decide either to give each Libyan 1,000 or each family 10,000. This does not matter. I took the example of Ali Sha'iri's family. This family would be notified that its account has been credited with such or such amount of money which becomes the family's property. This sum will have to be managed according to the policy designed by the people's congresses. [passage omitted]

What favors has the state to give to the citizens? None. Even if the state offers assistance to the disabled and the needy, where does it get these funds which it is spending on them? It gets it from public funds, such as the oil in Libya, for example, which is the property of all citizens, and from taxes and duties also paid by members of society by virtue of the laws of the land.

Only enslaved people offer thanks and applause to the government for the services it extends to them. [applause] A citizen's right becomes a favor or ex-gratia payment to him made by the king or the emir or the president. Where did these get the money they are giving to the citizens? The money is either coming from public funds which are owned by the people as a whole or from taxes and duties paid by the people in the first place to

the state treasury. The credit does not go to the government which redistributes the funds, but to all the people who contributed to public funds and agreed to distribute it among the needy or spend it on public projects of health or housing.

It is not the government that decides all this. It is the people. Those are pitiful people who give their sweat and blood and then cheer those who suck their blood. What I do not accept to be the case here in Libya, and ignorance has a lot to do with this, is that the right of the citizen becomes a favor or charity. People sell their honor and pay bribes and seek underhand help to claim their right against a government employee of a public office. This is oppression.

This is a citizen's right. Government employees could not take bribes because they are being paid salaries from society's public funds, the oil revenue, the taxes etc. You cannot take a salary and demand bribes for doing your job. [passage omitted]

For this reason the traditional official administrative system should be demolished. The civil service system has been undermined in the Third World. [passage omitted]

For some years now I have warned you not to depend on oil revenue and government salaries. I have repeatedly said this to you. I told you that one day oil might not be exportable, and this is now eminent; I told you, when the price was $40 a barrel, that oil prices could fall—and it fell to $5, cheaper than water. Do not depend on government employment. Government employees are the most miserable people of all at the moment. What makes them ask for bribes is the fact that their salaries are not adequate. Forget about government employment altogether—one should neither give nor receive bribery, may God curse both of them.

As government employees found themselves in this kind of situation, they have, in contravention of all laws, been forced to take up other jobs, which should never happen. I know there are Libyans today who have been forced to take up several jobs; open a shop, run a taxi service and a truck, if possible, a farm and a cafe; all this and they are government employees as well. They have to do this to survive. The forthcoming congresses should abolish the government civil service system, which has undermined itself and the Third World states. Public companies should remain and they can absorb all the workforce. [passage omitted] We have 58 public industrial companies owned by the Libyan people. These are not government-owned companies, they are owned by the people. [passage omitted]

I have an objection to make, which might lead to financial loss, but give it some thought. I would like to say it here before the members of the General People's Congress who will have to convey it to the [basic] people's congresses for discussion. Do not think that you can decide and dictate your prices to the electricity, water, and postal authorities. Doing this to reduce prices for instance is similar to telling the sponge-seller to reduce the prices of his sponges by half. He cannot do that. He would tell you: Like it or leave it. This is a trade. We are making mistakes now when we ask for lower electricity and postal services' prices. The electricity company is a commercial company. Should people want electritiy, it would give them what they want. You have to pay the price, though. Should the point be made regarding the fact that this is a needed service related to progress and civilization and say that the state should subsidize it [sentence as heard]. Fair enough, if you want it to be cheap, then subsidize it from your own budget. A budget means making cuts in the income of oil, projects, and so on, and giving them to the electricity company. Once you have given me money, suppose I am the chairman of the electricity company, then I would cut the electricity prices for you. Subsidize prices, and I will cut them for you. Where does subsidy come from? It comes from us, the citizens. We either give part of our salaries, or give part of our income, or decide to give 5 percent from the state budget to reduce the electricity prices for all of us. We should all take part in subsidies, so that we all benefit from price reductions. This is logical. [passage omitted]

There will be two kinds of national service: armed national service, which is conscription and unarmed national service which relates to civil duties. Incidentally, national service, including armed service, will be 12 months rather than 40 months. [applause]

I am authorized by the People's Congresses to decide to increase or decrease the duration of national service. I am not happy with 24 months national service, which is currently in effect. It should henceforth be reorganized to last for 12 months; when we say 12 months it really means in effect nine or 10 months because that includes holidays, weekends, and leaves. The time actually spent at the barracks is about nine or 10 months. This is the minimum, and I wish we could in future make it on one, two, or three months. This can be achieved if the general military training was successful. [applause]

However, there is a point here. If someone failed or missed or did not do well in the general military training, then they would be liable to do the whole 24 months. [passage omitted]

Let this be clear. Civilian national service will replace the official administrative employment system, which has proved to be of no benefit to either the employees or to us the people. [passage omitted]

Public order policemen will not have to remain in their jobs all their lives. They will have to spend 10 months in their jobs and move over. This should be on a rotational basis. I mean by this that people's rotation should replace the official civil service structure.

Regarding the issue of wholesaling, you made a mistake when you called the individual wholesaler a wholesaler. There is a license involved here, and licenses, brothers,

should be given in turns. One does not have to remain a merchant all his life. [passage omitted]

I have mentioned to you that if the monies were to be distributed, the civil service would have to come to an end. We would have got rid of the civil service from which we have benefited nothing.

The economic activities are to be exercised in the following manner: corporations, public enterprises and companies, cooperatives, family activity, and individual activity. This means that the door is open to Libyans to invest their monies, and to carry on individual activity. [passage omitted]

Whoever wants to establish a bank, let him do so. Let him withdraw monies and put them in a bank. If 100 Libyans wanted to withdraw their monies and use them to establish a bank, they would be free to do so, let them establish a bank. [passage omitted]

Among the things that provide income for you, there are things which are very new and there are things which are very sensitive. Like the question of liberating the Libyan dinar. We talked about this. It is very sensitive and requires effort before a decision is made on it.

There is tourism. Tourism provides a very big income. Libya had a ban on tourism. However, Libya is very, very rich with tourist attractions—Islamic, international, local, and natural attractions that can be man made or those which God had created and they are all plentiful in Libya. If Libya opened the doors to tourism, it would benefit materially—money-wise. The income is as big as that of oil. This is one of the things that you should include in the agenda. They should be debated by congresses and they should take a decision on it. [passage omitted]

Libya's coastline is about 2,000 km long and is unrivalled. You should debate this, and you should weigh the pros and the cons, but generally tourism will provide you with a very big income. I encourage it and have confidence in it. We should build up tourism properly and spend some money on it to begin with. Afterward, there should be no problem and we should sit back and enjoy it. [passage omitted]

I believe there is a law which permits the investment of foreign capital in Libya. Is there a law or not? What I mean is that I am interested in the fact that after this law that you have passed—namely No. 9 for the year 1992 concerning the economic activity, providing guarantees to Libyans when they invest their money in Libya—there should be a law that provides guarantees for foreign capital investment. In the past we used to be afraid, but now we are not. They used to trick us. They took money from us to exploit. The Americans try to encourage others to invest in America [passage indistinct]. Why do we say that Arab oil money is being invested in the banks of the United States? Arab money is being invested in Israeli banks.

Here we should introduce a law that encourages the investment of foreign money. You should present it to the popular congresses. I do not believe we have a law that covers this. We should have a law on this. Foreign money should be secure. You will benefit from this.

You can bring a company with whom you set up a factory or any other amenity. Regarding tourism, perhaps you would like foreign companies to come here in order to invest in tourism. Afterward, you divide the income from it between you and them; this is better than spending your money on it. [passage omitted]

We have three major projects in front of us. We must persevere and get them implemented. These projects are: the remaining stages of the great man-made river; the railroad linking Libya with Tunisia and Egypt; and developing the coast. We must shoulder all that is needed to implement these projects.

This is a national issue and just as important as the fight against the Italians and as important as a revolution.

If we make a constitution there should not be things which are exposed to cancellation by anybody. I will explain a bit: We will stipulate in it people's authority. The word constitution is naturally a word that is not Arab. In Arabic it is called the law of laws or the statute. It might not have the name of constitution. I do not know where the word constitution, as adopted by the world, comes from, perhaps from Persian. We will first of all stipulate people's authority, and we will say that the system existing in Libya is that of direct democracy with people's authority, people's congresses, and people's committees and there is no authority other than that. We must stipulate that and human rights in the era of the masses: the right of man to self- determination and to his efforts. These are inalienable fundamental matters that are contained in the great Green Book.

Our views on execution, imprisonment and the things we said...[sentence unfinished]. When someone deserves execution, do you or do you not restrict his freedom [words indistinct]. The solutions of the Green Book, the economic and political system will be stipulated in the constitution and the Islamic sharia will be stipulated in the constitution, because I will tell you: Naturally when the revolution came about, we set up committees that revised Libyan laws in accordance with the Islamic sharia. When they heard me talk about the revision of the law on theft and cutting hands, they thought we had just approved it and they said: Libya has adopted it. This has been our orientation since the advent of the revolution. We cannot ignore the punishments contained in the Koran. [passage omitted]

We decided on Islamic sharia when the revolution came about and we adhere to it. If there is a constitution, a statute, or a law of laws, this must stipulate it clearly. [passage omitted]

If you steal, particularly state funds, if you steal money from me, sometimes I will pardon you and your hand

will not be cut off: I will come to the court and say, this one stole something from me and may God pardon him, but if you steal state funds there is no pardon. The one whose hand must be cut off is the one who steals state funds. By God, if the hand of only one person is cut off and shown on television, nobody will steal anything even in a hundred years. [passage omitted]

The things I said, with which I gave you a headache, add them to the agenda if you like, however, please discuss the agenda. For instance, I hear statements on hunting and I heard them several times, from several congresses, and (Hijazi) was talking about it this morning. This should be included in one part or we will say: Brothers, there is a law on hunting that has existed for some time, and we will implement it and that is all, and thus it will be crossed out from the agenda. This is the way you should put it. Please lay down the agenda, it is not possible for the congresses to discuss all these laws. If we lay down a constitution with one law this time, that is enough. I have talked about the things that are fundamental and which concern us and then you are free, you have time in your hands, and you can hold meetings and issue laws [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Correction to al-Qadhdhafi Addresses in Yefren, Jadu

WA0705181593

The following correction pertains to the items headlined "Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students in Yefren," published on page 16, and "Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Jadu Residents" published on page 18 in the 5 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT:

"Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students in Yefren," page 17, column two, first full paragraph, ending with "...well-known fact. [passage omitted]" concludes the item.

All subsequent text, from "Continuing his address..." to "...for their attention." belongs at the end of the item headlined "Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Jadu Residents," which begins in column one on page 18 of the same book, and ends "...respect us, he says." Joined item item now reads "...respect us," he says. [new paragraph]

Continuing his address...for their attention."

Sudan

Egypt Said To Deploy Over 5,000 Troops in Hala'ib

NC0905060093 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, May 8 (AFP) - Sudan on Saturday charged that Egypt has deployed more than 5,000 troops in the disputed oil-rich Hala'ib region and was threatening military confrontation.

Officials summoned Arab ambassadors to tell them that Egypt had sent Sudan a 48-hour ultimatum on Thursday ordering it to stop all civilian and police activities in Hala'ib town, the official Sudanese news media reported.

The interior minister, Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn, and other Sudanese officials told the ambassadors that more than 5,000 Egyptian soldiers were now in Hala'ib, compared to less than 1,000 at the end of last month.

In its ultimatum Egypt alleged that Sudan had increased the number of armed personnel to 68 and built illegal structures in Hala'ib, he said.

Egypt called for the withdrawal of these armed persons and freezing all construction activities in Hala'ib within 48 hours from Thursday, he said.

But Husayn said the activities were only "administrative-civilian measures", and denied that the Sudanese Government had moved any armed personnel into the area.

Tension in the region escalated on April 26 when Egyptian military intelligence warned Khartoum "against any movement of Sudanese troops north of Muhammad-Qawl," as this would be "a hostile act against Egypt," Husayn said.

On Tuesday Egypt warned Sudan against any movement of troops north of Port Sudan, saying that would be considered an act against or threat to Egyptian national security and "met in kind," Husayn told the diplomats.

Conflict over Hala'ib, an area of 20,000 square kilometers along the Red Sea, resurfaced in 1991 when Sudan gave a Canadian oil company a permit to look for oil in the region.

An 1899 agreement between Egypt and Britain made the 22nd parallel the border between the two countries and gave Hala'ib to Egypt, but allowed Sudan to run the administration for the area's Sudanese population.

Egypt Reportedly Arrests Policemen in Hala'ib

NC0905184593 Paris AFP in English 1829 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, May 9 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces have arrested an unspecified number of Sudanese police officers in the disputed oil-rich border region of Hala'ib, Sudanese Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn said Sunday.

Sudan responded to Saturday's move by arresting three Egyptian policemen, Brigadier-General Husayn added, according to an official source.

He told a gathering of western and Arab ambassadors here that the Egyptian move came after Cairo gave Khartoum authorities 48 hours to cease all activity in the disputed territory on the Red Sea border.

The minister of state to the president's office, Ghazi Salah-al- Din 'Atabani, told the meeting that the junta here wants African and western nations to persuade Egypt to avoid military escalation in the territory.

'Atabani said Khartoum "takes seriously" a warning Egypt issued on Thursday threatening to use force if Sudan did not bow to its demands over the disputed frontier triangle.

In Cairo, Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi refused to comment on the incidents but recalled that President Husni Mubarak had recently stated Egypt would never take a military initiative against Sudan unless attacked.

Salah-al-Din had already summoned foreign ambassadors on Saturday to tell them that the situation in the region had "come to the brink of a military confrontation." [passage omitted]

RCC Official Briefs Arab Diplomats on Hala'ib

EA0905185693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 9 May (SUNA)—Secretary-general of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and interior minister, Brig 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, and the state minister at the presidency, Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din, briefed Saturday [8 May] at the Friendship Hall the Arab ambassadors and heads of the Arab diplomatic corps accredited to Sudan on the developments pertinent Hala'ib issue and progress of the Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

Brig Husayn reviewed aspects of the conflict in Hala'ib triangle, noting that number of Egyptian troops at the area reached 5,000 compared to 1,000 before escalation of the dispute. He said that the Egyptian authorities have been arresting the Sudanese citizens and establishing schools, mosques and ready-made buildings at Abu Ramad areas, besides intercepting the commercial vehicles and citizens and carrying out successive military training operations at Hala'ib area.

The Egyptian authorities, he said, always ask the Sudanese citizens to show their identity at the Sudanese land. Brig Husayn affirmed that the Sudanese troops will never begin an offensive. Egyptian authorities have warned the Sudanese authorities on 29th Jan not to move at the areas north of Muhammad Qol on grounds that any activity at this area is considered hostile to Egypt. A second warning, he said, came on 4th May pretending that any Sudanese activity at the area of Muhammad Qol and also Port Sudan is regarded as menace to the Egyptian national security and will be repulsed forcibly.

The third message from the Egyptian intelligence arrived on 6th May, including false allegation that the Sudan has been taking measures toward escalation of the conflict through increasing numbers of its Police forces at Hala'ib and Abu Ramad, he explained, adding that the Egyptian authorities called for withdrawal of additional police forces at two police stations within 48 hours, otherwise Egypt will conduct the measures which would secure its elements at the area.

Meanwhile, the state minister at the Presidency, Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din, has reiterated Sudan's rejection to the continuing Egyptian escalation of Hala'ib conflict. He unveiled that the Egyptian authorities had intercepted conduction of the recent population census procedures at Hala'ib area and confiscated two vehicles and documents used in the census.

Dr Salah al-Din has asserted involvement of the Egyptian Government in the foiled conspiracy against the Sudan, adding that President Mubarak's statement to BBC Radio Egypt [as heard] has the right to retaliate from those who export terrorism reflected a sheer confession about his involvement in the (?plot). He enumerated the Egyptian regime's attempts to distort and falsify the Sudanese history, referring to a news transmitted by Cairo Radio that the Bushariyyah tribe is an Egyptian and not Sudanese. He also refuted the incessant allegations circulated by Egypt against the Sudan since the Gulf war which depict the Sudan with terrorism.

RCC Chairman Says Nation 'Assailed by Enemies'

EA0905205393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has called on Sudanese youth to unite and prepare themselves to resist and stand up against the provocations being directed against the Sudanese nation. He said that this morning at Friendship Hall at a student and youth (?rally) to mark the end of the consultative conference on youth and student affairs after he had been given the recommendations of the conference.

He said: We are seeking peace and cooperation with all the world's states. What we desire from the youth is for them to lead the social movement by [words indistinct] between all the various organizations in the country. He lauded the youth for cooperating with the revolution's programs and for their participation in great development projects. He stressed that the revolution did not want to [word indistinct] any individual member of the nation.

Sudan was in need of (?help) from its sons now that it was being assailed by enemies [words indistinct]. He called on the youth to participate in the various development projects and to join the People's Defense [Forces] and people's police camps, stressing that our strength lies in the weapon we possess, which is the weapon of faith. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: Every time the enemies have assailed us, we have strengthened our faith and kept on the path of justice and peace. We shall soon be victorious, God willing.

He said: We desire the peace of honor and glory which will preserve the rights of every citizen, saying there would be no bargaining over the rights of the homeland.

His excellency instructed the youth to involve themselves with investment projects so as to finance their projects. He declared his readiness to direct financing organizations to act towards this end. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir referred to Egypt's provocations against Sudan over the Hala'ib issue. His excellency expressed the hope that the Egyptian regime knew who the enemies of the Arab nation were [word indistinct].

Kuwait

Iraqi Intelligence Colonel Said Behind Plot To Kill Bush

NC0905150493 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 9 May 93

[Report by Amani al-Sawi]

[Text] Kuwait City, May 9 (AFP)—A colonel in the Iraqi intelligence service is the prime suspect in a plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during a visit here last month, a Kuwaiti judicial source said Sunday.

Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir, who allegedly led a hit-team into Kuwait, "admitted having planned a suicide attack in which he was to set off explosives attached to his belt when he got close to George Bush," the source said.

"The quantity of explosives seized from the members of the team exceeds 100 kilograms (220 pounds)," he said, declining to be named. "'Abd-al-Amir was in charge of Iraqi intelligence service activities during the Iraq-Iran war."

The Kuwaiti government announced on April 27 it had arrested 14 members of a 17-member terrorist network that had planned to carry out attacks in Kuwait and assassinate Bush during his April 14-16 visit.

Bush, who organized the international coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February 1991, travelled to the emirate on a private visit.

THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper reported on Saturday that the U.S. administration had hard evidence Iraq was behind an assassination attempt against Bush.

"We take these allegations very seriously," said White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos. "If we determine Iraq was involved in state-sponsored terrorism, the United States will take appropriate action against Iraq."

The paper said U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a team of Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation anti-terrorism specialists to Kuwait to investigate.

Baghdad has denied it was behind any such plot.

Iraq's information minister, Hamad Yusuf Hammadi, told the Cable News Network that Kuwait was working with the Central Intelligence Agency in a bid to justify a new attack on Iraq and tighten a 33-month international embargo.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi convicted last year of having shot dead a Kuwaiti border guard was executed in Kuwait City's main prison last Tuesday, a ministry of interior source said Sunday.

The execution of 'Abd-al-Hasan Khafi, 30, was the first since Kuwait's liberation.

He was sentenced to death by the state security court along with another Iraqi, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khalidi, both found guilty of killing a member of a Kuwaiti border patrol who tried to prevent them from entering Kuwait.

Kuwaiti sources said the two Iraqis had tried to smuggle in alcohol, which is strictly forbidden in the emirate.

After liberation, military courts handed down several death sentences against Iraqis, Kuwaitis and others convicted of collaborating with Iraqi troops during the seven-month occupation.

But the sentences were commuted to life in prison by the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, under pressure from the West.

Plotters Not To Be Extradited

LD1005080193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0654 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA)—Acting Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah confirmed that the members of the Iraqi terrorist network who plotted to kill former U.S. President George Bush will be tried in Kuwait.

In a statement to Kuwait's AL-ANBA, Shaykh 'Ali added that the accused will not be handed over to the United States. The criminal act was planned in Kuwait, therefore the trial will take place there. He said that Kuwaiti and U.S. authorities have been cooperating. He announced that U.S. Government representatives had arrived.

Red Cross Official Cited on Release of Missing Family

LD0805182693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1633 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpt] Geneva, 8 May (KUNA)—The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has announced that the six members of a Kuwaiti family, whose disappearance a month ago has been reported, will be handed over tomorrow. Meanwhile, Western agencies cite a statement by the eldest member of the missing family in Baghdad as saying that they were released today.

An ICRC spokeswoman told KUNA in Geneva today that the return of the six missing persons from Iraq to Kuwait had been postponed from today until tomorrow, Sunday, for "technical reasons." Sylvie Rombaldi said that Red Cross officials in Iraq have not met the six missing people yet. Rombaldi did not give any details on the technical reasons that she mentioned. She said however that she expects the return operation to take place tomorrow if these technical matters are resolved. [passage omitted]

Iraq Hands Family to Red Cross

LD0905095693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 May (KUNA)—Arnold [name indistinct], regional commissioner of the International Red Cross Committee for the Arabian Peninsula, has affirmed that the committee has received six missing Kuwaitis and that they will arrive at Safwan border post this afternoon.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA today, he said: "The members of the Kuwaiti family are in good health and representatives of the Committee in Kuwait will this morning set out for the Safwan post to receive them and to deliver them to their family and relations.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, announced last Tuesday that six members of a Kuwaiti family missing for almost a month were in the city of Basrah in the south of Iraq.

It will be recalled that the oldest of the six brothers, named Sa'ud al-Mukhaytir, 21 years old, held a news conference yesterday at al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad where he spoke about the complications of their arrest by the Iraqi forces on 8 April when he and his brothers were on a trip in the north of Kuwait and lost their way.

The father of the missing men, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mukhaytir, informed the authorities about the disappearance of his six sons—Sa'ud, 21; Iqbal, 18; Ibrahim, 16; Rim, 11; Muhammad, five; and 'Abd al-Rahman, two—all of whom went on a land excursion in a gray Toyota car and did not return until the time of this report.

Family Arrives From Iraq

LD0905204693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1559 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 May (KUNA)—The six Kuwaitis missing since 8 April arrived at Kuwait Airport this evening. His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, other officials, and large crowds were there to meet them.

Minister on Cabinet Meeting, Border Trench

LD0905221593 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

After the meeting, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil 'Abdallah al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, stated that at the beginning of its session the Council of Ministers welcomed the visit which President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the delegation accompanying him, will pay to Kuwait tomorrow. The visit forms part of his tour of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. President Mubarak will be the guest of his highness the amir. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also reviewed the international efforts made at the various levels to end the suffering of the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina and called on the international community to intensify its efforts to end this human tragedy. [passage omitted]

KUNA asked the minister about the recent decision by the Council of Ministers regarding the digging of a trench and the building of an earth screen along the northern borders between Kuwait and Iraq and whether this trench fulfills the role of protection against infiltration, smuggling, and attacks by agents of the Iraqi regime. The minister indicated that this trench was an emergency measure, part of a project for a security belt that includes many more measures aimed at reinforcing the country's security and protecting it against the threats of the Iraqi regime and its evil plans. In this respect, the minister of state for cabinet affairs hailed the good efforts made by the national committee in charge of collecting donations to build the fourth wall. He said that this positive initiative stemmed from a pressing popular desire to speed up the realization of this vital project, in view of its importance in bolstering the country's security and stability.

Prime Minister Returns From UK Following Medical Checks

LD0705220693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 May 93

[Excerpt] In the protection and care of God, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, has returned tonight to the homeland after a short private visit to the United Kingdom, during which he had some medical checks. [passage omitted]

Oman

Egyptian President Mubarak Arrives on Visit 9 May

JN0905134393 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in the country this afternoon on an official two-day visit to the Sultanate.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id was at the head of those who received the Egyptian president upon his arrival at the sultan's airport. [passage omitted]

Says Cabinet Reshuffle Possible

NC0905142293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Muscat, 9 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak described his visit to the Sultanate of Oman, at the start of an important eight-day tour during which he will visit Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, as cordial.

In a statement to correspondents accompanying him, President Mubarak commented on a number of domestic issues and said that a cabinet reshuffle after July is possible. He praised Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government and said: When I make changes, it is not just for the sake of change; I do it when there is a new program or plan demanding that new elements assume responsibility for its implementation.

Mubarak emphasized the need to confront terrorism forcefully and firmly, saying that there can be no negotiations with terrorists, whom he described as mafia.

After his visit to Oman, Mubarak is scheduled to visit Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. His consultations and talks with the leaders of the Gulf states are expected to deal with a number of important Arab and international issues, led by the developments in the Middle East peace negotiations in Washington, Arab relations, the situation in Somalia, the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis, and the bilateral relations between Egypt and the fraternal Arab states he will visit.

Qabus, Mubarak View Peace Talks

NC0905174793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1717 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Muscat, 9 May (MENA)—MENA's correspondent in Muscat has learned that President Husni Mubarak and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf, developments in the current peace talks in Washington, Gulf security, and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that the two leaders' views were identical. He described the relations between the two countries as very good. Dr. al-Baz noted that the two leaders agreed to continue to promote and intensify the cooperation between the two countries in the various fields.

Tour Said To Discuss Iranian 'Threat'

NC0905180193 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Muscat, April 9 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Sunday began talks in Oman at the start of a Gulf tour expected to focus on the alleged threat from Iran to Arab states.

Mubarak met in Muscat with Sultan Qabus, the Omani News Agency reported without disclosing details of the talks. Mubarak will later visit Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"The real threat in the region is Iran," Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi told AFP, adding that the Arabs must map out a common strategy to confront events both regionally and internationally.

He said the tour was to find ways to thwart Iran's "ambition to dominate" the Middle East.

Egypt has repeatedly accused Iran of playing a destabilising role in the region by supporting Muslim militants who are trying to overthrow the government in Cairo and install an Islamic state.

Officials in Cairo have often voiced concern over the lack of a countermeasure to Iran's military might in the region since the destruction of the Iraqi army during the Gulf war.

"Iraq is the only country capable of facing up to Iran in the Gulf," Mubarak recently said in an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO.

But al-Ghatrifi explained that the president did not mean "Saddam Husayn's Iraq."

Egypt also seeks financial aid from the six Gulf oil states. But a security pact between the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt and Syria has been frozen, amid criticism from Iran of involvement of countries from outside the Gulf.

The pro-government Egyptian daily AL-JUMHURIYAH meanwhile warned against the "devastating" effects which would befall the region if a key state were to collapse, in a reference to Egypt's running battle with Islamic militants.

Officials in Cairo have said the main cause of the confrontation lies in the economic difficulties that grip Egypt.

AL-JUMHURIYAH believes that the oil-rich Arab Gulf states should be more generous with Egypt to help ease its economic and political hardships.

Departs Muscat

JN1005080193 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, left the country a short while ago at the end of a two-day visit to the sultanate, during which he held official talks with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id on the latest developments in the Arab and international arena and the solid relations which exist between the two countries. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

PLO Contributions Worth $12 Million Reportedly Withheld

NC0705170993 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Doha, May 7 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are withholding some 12 million dollars in contributions destined for the PLO, a Palestinian source in the Gulf said Friday.

The funds represent three years worth of contributions collected from the salaries of Palestinians working in the UAE and amount to a total of 43 million dirhams (11.7 million dollars), the source said.

According to the source, Palestinians in the UAE set aside five percent of their salaries as contributions for the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

But the UAE only sent the PLO 10 million dirhams (3.6 million dollars) in 1992, following the intervention of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the source added.

Gulf states stopped funding the PLO during the Gulf crisis to protest what they said was the Palestinian movement's pro-Iraqi stance.

But Arab diplomats last month told AFP the UAE and Qatar had said they would resume sending contributions collected from Palestinians in those countries to the PLO.

Banknote Decision Ends Hoarding, Improves Exchange Rate

JN0805091693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—Informed sources have revealed that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as other regimes, have begun to load the Iraqi 25-dinar banknotes in their possession onto large trucks and then burn them en masse.

BABIL cites these sources as saying that there is over 12 billion Iraqi dinars of this denomination, which was printed in Switzerland and marked with the letters "Kha 'Ayn," outside the country.

The paper focuses on the objectives these regimes were trying to achieve by hoarding that denomination of Iraqi currency. The paper says the objective was not to use them or invest in them, but to serve conspiratorial schemes against Iraq.

It is worth noting that the Iraqi leadership's decision to withdraw that denomination from circulation within a fixed period of time, ending the day after tomorrow, and to close the Iraqi borders until Monday to prevent the dinars hoarded abroad from entering the country, has helped the Iraqi dinar's exchange rate, which recorded an increase of over 150 percent compared to the exchange rate before the decision.

Sources at the exchange market revealed that the dinar's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar on Thursday reached 40 dinars to the dollar, compared to 105 dinars to the dollar at the end of last month.

The leadership's decision to withdraw that denomination has drawn many reactions and results, to the extent that the Voice of America said the decision was even more serious than the decision to enter Kuwait.

Annulling Banknote Said 'Legitimate' Defensive Move

JN0905121593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH condemns speculators who turned the 25-dinar banknote known as the "Swiss print" into a tool for speculation and making exorbitant profits even though true national and pan-Arab considerations were at stake.

In an article published today under the headline "Yes For Protecting the Iraqis' Loaves of Bread," the paper says that the least that can be said about these speculators is that they are adventurists, if not people colluding with the powers that seek to abort Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the embargo and the aggression.

The paper asserts that the Revolution Command Council's decision to withdraw this denomination of Iraqi banknote is an act of national sovereignty aimed at protecting the national currency and the Iraqi dinar at an extremely difficult phase, during which Iraq is being exposed to a severe economic embargo.

The paper adds that this measure is a legitimate, justifiable defensive move. Indeed, the paper maintains, it is one of the most important measures taken to protect the Iraqis' loaves of bread from those who used speculation to make a living and secure exorbitant profits even when national and pan-Arab considerations are at stake.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say: The conspiracy against Iraq—land, people, and economy—is multifaceted. From the outset, it assumed its economic nature when the rulers imposed on Kuwait sought to undermine the purchasing power of the Iraqi dinar and tampered with its exchange rate. All this was done at the urging of the administration of the defeated Bush.

Concluding its article, the paper says: Speculating in the Swiss printed 25-dinar banknote and fixing exchange rates for it in violation of the laws in force constitute economic sabotage, and perpetrators are considered in collusion with the schemes hatched by the aggressive and conspiratorial states, even if intentions are good.

Radio Accused of Attempting to 'Inflame Feelings'

JN0805100093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—A Jordanian paper has accused Radio Monte Carlo of trying to poison the atmosphere between Iraq and Jordan.

In an article today, AL-DUSTUR asserts that the radio took advantage of Iraq's decision to withdraw from circulation the Swiss issue of its 25-dinar banknote to inflame feelings and suggest that a disaster or a military confrontation between the two countries had occurred.

The paper says the conduct of Radio Monte Carlo, which is financed by colonialist quarters with known intentions, falls within the context of a mobilization campaign against Iraq.

AL-DUSTUR refutes the information reported by the radio correspondent in Amman who said there is a popular Jordanian anger and reproof against Iraq and its leadership. The paper says the besieged Iraq has the right to take the necessary economic and monetary decisions to deal with its own circumstances and no other party has the right to intervene in its domestic affairs.

Criticizing the way Radio Monte Carlo handled Iraq's decision to withdraw that banknote from circulation, the paper stresses that in the past two days, the radio handled the issue in a provocative manner and with an unjustified agitating language "that seeks only to inflame the situation in the name of the Jordanian people."

The paper underlines the Jordanian people's principled pan-Arab position in support of their brethren in Iraq. It says the Jordanian people's support of their brothers

during their dilemma was not an investment seeking a material gain, but, rather, a pan- Arab and national position dictated by the requirements of affiliation.

Minister Says Bush Assassination Plot 'Fabrication'

JN0905074193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 May 93 p 22

[Excerpt] Baghdad (INA)—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi yesterday ridiculed Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah's statement to CNN, in which he claimed the Kuwaiti authorities had foiled an Iraqi attempt to assassinate former U.S. President Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah is known for his lies; he is the father of Nayyirah, the girl the CIA used to delude the Congress and world public opinion by fabricating the well-known story of the incubators shortly before the military aggression against Iraq.

He added: The shaykhs of Kuwait, in coordination with the CIA, are concocting a new lie in order to deceive the U.S. public and thus justify a new aggression against Iraq and intensify the embargo imposed on it. The United States has sent some of its experts to Kuwait in order to put the final touches on the new fabrication. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Refutes Iranian Claims on POW Release

JN0905113493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] In reply to a news report carried by IRNA on Thursday, 6 May 1993, to the effect that Iran had released 200 Iraqi prisoners of war captured during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war, an authorized source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made the following statement to INA:

We have nothing to add to the statement made on 24 April 1993 regarding the identity of those released on that date. However, the news report carried by IRNA is the height of disinformation and an attempt at deception aimed to achieve media gains. This is because the Iranian side unjustifiably deems POW's the Iraqi military personnel detained by the Iranian authorities after they had been forced into Iranian territory during the chapter of treason and treachery in 1991.

The source added: Once again, we would like to reiterate that the 200 personnel turned over to the competent Iraqi authorities on 6 May 1993 were not POW's of the Iraq-Iran war, but rather military personnel held by Iran during the chapter of treason and treachery in 1991.

The spokesman indicated that Iraq looks forward to seeing Iranian officials release thousands of veteran Iraqi POW's in implementation of Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and to honor international conventions and norms, the tenets of Islam, and the principles of good neighborliness.

Baghdad Ready To Provide 'Complete Information' on Arsenal

NC0705200393 Paris AFP in English 1931 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Manama, May 7 (AFP)—Iraq says it is ready to provide the United Nations with complete information on its weapons arsenal in exchange for "assurances" aimed at easing sanctions on Baghdad, a U.N. arms expert said Friday [7 May].

Richard Hooper, of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said he was asked by the Iraqi authorities to carry back this message to Vienna.

"The statement was that we know and you know what the major questions are.

"We (Iraq) stand ready to deal with all of them whenever we get assurances that having dealt with these questions we'll turn the page and move on," he said on arriving in Bahrain from Iraq at the end of an inspection mission.

In exchange for "working and answering all the questions" of the United Nations, Iraq wants the easing of the sanctions which have been imposed on Baghdad since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"In practice that means the IAEA must say to the Security Council that Iraq is complying with Resolution 687, requiring Baghdad to supply information on the location and quantity of chemical and biological weapons as well as ballistic missiles."

The U.N. Security Council resolution also calls for the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

"The IAEA will not give assurances in advance as we consider this (Iraqi compliance) a necessary condition. But it may not be sufficient," Hooper added.

Iraq has refused to date to reveal the list of its suppliers and give complete information about its arms arsenal and production, namely its nuclear programme.

Hooper said Iraq nevertheless was cooperating with U.N. inspection missions "to establish an effective monitoring programme" of its military activity in line with Security Council Resolution 715

The American expert and his 14-member team visited 17 sites in Iraq without finding any undeclared nuclear equipment and collected water samples from 15 other locations to check their radioactivity levels, to detect any renewal of nuclear activity in Iraq.

The next U.N. mission is expected in Iraq in the second half of June, Hooper said.

Travel Visas Issued Before 2 May Canceled

JN1005114993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—A source at the Iraqi Directorate of Passports told INA today that the directorate has canceled visas issued before 2 May and asked people planning to travel abroad to visit it to obtain a new visa and pay the new travel fees. This does not apply to those who obtained a visa for the hajj trip, the source said, adding that the directorate has also canceled all types of multiple visas, regardless of the reasons for which they were issued.

The source said the new travel fee applies to anybody issued a new passport as well as those accompanying him, if they are above six years and included on his passport. Those who wish to obtain a travel visa should pay the new fee by a certified bank check. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Views Talks With Officials

JN0605115693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has described his meeting with President Saddam Husayn and his talks with Iraqi officials as deep and tangible.

In a press conference held here and attended by reporters from Arab and foreign news agencies and television networks as well as INA and local newspapers and magazines, Hawatimah said that the talks stressed the need to find formulas to lift the embargo on Iraq and Libya and build Arab solidarity based on common interests and in accordance with an honorable charter. Such a charter would contribute to ending the Arab differences and would support the Palestinian people's struggle.

Hawatimah indicated that the talks stressed the need to enhance the Palestinian intifadah's steadfastness because it is the basis of struggle. Talks also stressed the need to circumvent the unjust conditions imposed on the Palestinian people through the Madrid and Washington formulas and stop the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations, so a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue can be held. Such a dialogue would rebuild the Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, on democratic bases stemming from both the decisions of the Palestinian legitimate bodies and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Hawatimah referred to the so-called international legitimacy, which has double standards. Iraq is being subjected to aggression and embargo on the pretext of its failure to abide by the Security Council resolutions at a time when the Zionist entity is treated according to a different standard, Hawatimah said. He attributed the double standards of U.S. policy to the strategic cooperation between the U.S. Administration and the Zionist entity which has not yet honored the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Iranian Army Said To Continue 'Offensive' in North

NC1005060293 Paris AFP in English 2331 GMT 9 May 93

[Report by Antoine Jacob]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 9 (AFP) - The Iranian Army continued an offensive in northern Iraq Sunday against members of the Iranian Kurdish opposition, the vice-minister for the interior of the self-proclaimed Iraqi Kurdish state said.

Speaking to AFP in Irbil, headquarters of the Iraqi Kurdish entity, Ahmad Sharif 'Ali said the Iranian Army had since mid-April held positions three to four kilometres (two or three miles) inside Iraqi territory.

The incursions near the localities of Qala'at Dizah and Banjwin had caused 5,000 Iraqi Kurdish families to flee, he said.

Iranian artillery fire, which had lessened in recent days, had not caused fatalities, but had left a number of wounded, Ahmad Sharif 'Ali said. He did not give a precise number.

But he also said that a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran had been killed by "Iranian agents" in the village of Mamakhatib. Last Wednesday the head of the Iranian Kurdish party had said in Paris that the Iranian Army incursion began March 23 and had displaced some 7,000 people.

The vice-chairman of the self-proclaimed Iraqi Kurdish parliament, Najjad 'Aziz, for his part condemned the Iranian attacks as "an intervention in Iraqi internal affairs."

"This kind of activities jeopardize the attempts of our government to normalize its relations with our neighbours," he told AFP.

The Kurdish government in Iraq, set up after elections in May 1992 and recognised neither by the Iraqi authorities nor by the international community, controls part of the north of the country.

'Aziz and 'Ali denied that the Iranian Kurds based in Iraq had launched attacks against Iranian targets from the territory, as the government in Tehran had last month accused them of doing.

'Ali said that although the Iraqi and Iranian Governments had been enemies during their war from 1980 to 1988, they "became brothers to face the Iraqi Kurdish government."

However the Iraqi authorities threatened a week ago to reply to any Iranian action posing a threat to their sovereignty.

'Ali said that the Iranian forces had also moved Iranian Kurdish civilians away from the border area.

Further on Iranian Operations

NC1005084993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Esteemed listeners. According to a report, the Iranian forces resumed their aggressive operations on the morning of 7 May and attacked part of Iraqi Kurdistan in the border areas in the (Bamo) Heights.

The report says that during this attack, the enemy's forces occupied the villages of (Brarang), (Kani Pacha), (Dusta), (Kani Veysa), and Hajiabad in Iraqi Kurdistan. From the occupied areas, they then shelled the villages of (Suwardaran), Balasua, and (Mela-ye Sartik) with large-caliber artillery.

The Iranian regime's aggressive forces remained in these villages from morning to evening on 7 May, and after shelling the region—which resulted in extensive damage—they returned to the border strip area.

Until now, except for this information, no precise reports about the extent of losses have reached the Voice of Iranian Kordestan.

We condemn the aggressive actions of the criminal clerical regime against the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan, which have rendered the people of this region homeless. We call on all international humanitarian organizations and political parties not to remain silent in the face of the clerical regime's aggression.

To prevent the clerical regime from further violating human rights and trampling on all standards, they should act quickly and seriously; otherwise, we can expect the anti-human forces of the clerical regime to continue to attack defenseless people on a whim and to destroy their homes. All freedom-loving and compassionate people should join in expressing displeasure and loathing over the regime's plot.

Marshlands Said Poisoned; Nuclear Equipment Hidden

NC0905192593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The criminal regime is poisoning the water of the marshlands in southern Iraq. Sources of the Iraqi opposition say that in the wake of this crime, serious diseases have spread among the local inhabitants whose suffering was complicated by the shortage of medicine and medical care.

Meanwhile, well informed sources say that the regime has concealed equipment pertaining to chemical and nuclear warfare in the marshlands for fear of their being discovered by the international inspection teams. The move has caused pollution in the area.

Regime Executes 4 in Madinat al-Thawrah

NC0805155893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] According to our sources, implementing its policy to repress citizens, the regime executed four people in Madinat al-Thawrah after gathering a large number of people to witness the hangings. The sources said a security official read out the verdict and warned that anyone opposing the regime will be executed.

The report affirmed that joint patrols of the regime's military and security forces roam Madinat al-Thawrah's streets and interrogate citizens, most of whom are beaten, abused, or arrested.

Regime Reportedly Executes Security Personnel

NC0905192393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] A number of those who fled the repressive measures of the Iraqi regime to Kurdistan say that the regime's authorities executed a number of special security servicemen, including Major Salim Malak al-Zuhuri and Major 'Adnan Hasan 'Ubayd. The families of the servicemen who were executed were also detained.

Car Bomb Explodes in al-Sulaymaniyah; No Casualties

NC0705211793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] A booby-trapped car containing 10 kg of TNT exploded in al-Sulaymaniyah yesterday morning. The blast caused material damage to some houses but no casualties.

Authorities Discover Car With Explosives in Irbil

NC0805155793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Our sources inside Iraq report that the security agencies in Irbil Governorate discovered a Brazilian-made booby-trapped car rigged with 60 kg of TNT. The driver, who was arrested, admitted that the crime was planned by the tyrant Saddam regime's intelligence authorities to terrify the public. The car was discovered by security men in cooperation with citizens.

An official in Irbil Security Directorate said an investigation will begin soon with the suspect, who will be referred to the judiciary to receive a fair punishment.

UN Role in Elections in Occupied Territories Ruled Out

NC0705192993 Paris AFP in English 1904 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 7 (AFP)—Israel will accept international-supervised elections in the Occupied Territories but not under United Nations' control, a high-ranking Israeli official told AFP here Friday. "We are favorable to international-controlled elections in the occupied territories. It's an extra gesture that we are making to the Palestinians. But we refuse that it be carried out by the U.N.," said the Israeli, who wished to remain anonymous. The diplomat suggested that the elections could be controlled by an international organization such as The Carter Foundation—founded by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Carter has several times been an election observer in troubled areas around the world. The former president, whose help led to peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, said in December he was ready to work for President Bill Clinton as a mediator in the Israeli-Arab negotiations. Israeli delegation spokesman Yosi Gal said Israel's acceptance of the international-controlled elections in the West Bank and Gaza was in a eight-point document that it presented Thursday. "The Palestinian delegation is to respond to it when negotiations resume next week," said Gal. Gal said the document listed the principals on which the continuing negotiations should focus. The Palestinians have always refused to allow the Israeli Army oversee the elections of the Palestinian council members who are to rule during the five-year autonomy period. Israel has always opposed the presence of a foreign force in the occupied territories, saying such a body would put into question its authority there.

Hamas Leaflet Calls For Killing Palestinian Delegates

TA0905075093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 May 93 p A4

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a house in the Tulkarm District settlement of Ma'ale Shomron over the weekend. No one was hurt, and only slight damage was caused. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources reported that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Civil Administration demolished a mosque in Gaza's al-Nasir neighborhood. According to them, the mosque had been built without a license by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. IDF troops oversaw the demolition, which was carried out without incidents. An Army source said dozens of territories' mosques had been built without a permit, but the defense establishment was focusing on Hamas establishments where activists meet and anti-Israeli propaganda is heard.

The Palestinian sources further reported that two wanted men affiliated with the Fatah Hawks, Mahmud al-'Ani and Ziyad Misrawi, had fled to Egypt. Some 25 fugitives have fled to Egypt since the beginning of the closure [29 March].

The IDF has decided that the troop reinforcements, which were sent to the territories at the beginning of the closure, will remain there. A senior Army source has said that the government has not decided as yet on a date on which the closure will be lifted. [passage omitted]

A Hamas leaflet distributed in Hebron District villages calls for the killing of the Palestinian delegation members when they return from Washington. The leaflet claims the delegates, who went back to the talks without first securing the return of all the Hamas deportees, have betrayed the people and ignored large sectors of the people. Palestinian sources said the leaflet was produced locally and apparently was distributed by an independent Hamas group in the area.

Meretz Hints Cabinet Reshuffle Could Solve Crisis

TA0805110293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Senior Meretz officials this morning said that the coalition crisis could be resolved by a redistribution of cabinet portfolios that was acceptable to Meretz; however, no such proposal has been made as yet. The officials told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich that the Labor party and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] could count on paying a heavy price in any cabinet reshuffle if they expected Meretz to make a similar sacrifice. Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni told Qol Yisra'el this morning that there was a solution for every crisis, and that if peace had a price, it should be borne by the entire coalition, and not placed at her and Meretz' doorstep. Aloni added that if there was a price, it should be equally shouldered by the Labor party, SHAS, Meretz, the prime minister, the interior minister, and Aloni herself.

Knesset Member [MK] Ran Kohen, the chairman of the Meretz faction, told our reporter Hayim Hecht that his faction was prepared to accept any solution on the condition that it not be presented as an ultimatum.

Labor MK Yosi Katz, acting chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, said that, according to the Basic Law, every minister must give his agreement in writing to any portfolio exchange. If the ministers all sign an agreement before tomorrow morning's cabinet session, Yitzhaq Rabin could reorganize the cabinet and satisfy the demands of all the parties involved in the crisis.

Rabin Cancels Trip; No-Confidence Debate Set for 10 May

TA0805143893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The Knesset debate of the motions of no-confidence in the government filed by Tzomet and the

National Religious Party will be held on Monday [10 May], and not on Wednesday, as was initially decided. The opposition factions had agreed to postpone the debate till Wednesday because the prime minister was supposed to travel to Strasbourg and address the European Parliament. Since Rabin canceled his trip, Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav contacted the Knesset secretary and demanded that the debate of the no-confidence motions be held on Monday, the day set for such debates according to the Knesset regulations.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the debate on Monday presents the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset faction with a serious dilemma, if that party's members do quit the government tomorrow. If this happens, their resignation will only go into effect Tuesday, and they will have to decide whether they support the government or oppose it a day before that. Such a scenario also means that currently the prime minister has less time to resolve the coalition crisis.

Interior Minister Submits Resignation

TA0905152893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The cabinet has already been in session for approximately one hour. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Interior Minister Der'i has submitted his letter of resignation. This afternoon it was revealed that the Meretz ministers had rejected Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal that Shulamit Aloni choose one of four other cabinet portfolios instead of education and culture. Meretz sources claimed that the prime minister had proposed either the construction and housing, industry and trade, health, or communications portfolios.

Health Minister Hayim Ramon opined that all the coalition partners would remain in the government and there would be no changes in the coalition's composition, even after the 48 hours required for Der'i's resignation to take effect had elapsed. However, Ramon said, there could be a reshuffle of cabinet portfolios.

Creation of 'Armed Jewish Police' Detailed

TA0905134493

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1730 GMT on 7 May carries a 10-minute report on what anchor Ya'aqov Ahime'ir introduces as "small radical groups," which "this week began establishing a well-trained, armed Jewish police force that will face the Palestinian police in the territories."

Ahime'ir adds: "In Samaria [as heard]—mainly in the area of Hebron—members of the radical movements are busy recruiting dozens of supporters and training them for the new police. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen spent a few nights with these groups this week."

The first segment of Hen's report, heard over footage showing armed, yarmulke-wearing men, states that the video was shot "at 2200 in a Hebron casbah alley. These new recruits in what is to be dubbed the Judaea Police in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza receive basic training in street fighting. Smashing street lamps in Arab neighborhoods is the objective of today's encounter."

An instructor identified as "paratrooper reserves Major Y" is heard explaining that "the Judaea police officer's task is to help the State of Israel cope with the new Palestinian police about to be established, and above all, to help the Judaea police to cope with problems that will probably arise when they have to pursue fugitives, detain Jews and ask them to show their papers, or detain masked men, and so forth; also, to teach men who want to join this police force how to fight in the street, detain fugitives, and be conversant with the suspect-detention regulation. They are supposed to know these things from their army service, and we only refresh their expertise."

The second part of Hen's report deals with the "one-week-long Jewish defense training course" the "Judaea police" volunteers undergo. Hen shows men firing "9mm and 38mm revolvers, Uzis, mini-Uzis, and M-16's. Those graduating from basic instruction are promoted to sharpshooting training with guns that contain a gadget to gather the ejected shells, for those who fire at terrorists but do not want to get caught." The sharpshooting instructor, identified on the screen as Reserves Lieutenant M, says: "Whatever happened in Yamit [Sinai settlement where evacuation was preceded by vigorous settler protest] was a child's play compared with what is going to happen in Judaea and Samaria. Whatever happened there, will not happen again. I think the struggle will be many times fiercer, and I have no doubt that when the government realizes that, when it begins and sees the opposition, it will simply stop and withdraw from its efforts. No one is going to budge from their land." Asked whether that includes armed resistance, he replies: "I cannot say about myself, but I know many people who will doubtlessly use weapons."

In the third part of the report, an English-speaking man, identified by Hen as "George, an American Jewish Defense League activist, brought in by Kakh" is seen addressing a group of men wearing identical T-shirts with a logo featuring a large letter Mem, and beneath that, the word Judaea in Hebrew, a Menorah, and the upper part of a Star of David. He trains the men in "hand-to-hand combat and survival."

Hen reports that "the organizers are careful to obliterate their traces after each training session. These are held in various sites, such as the Judaean Desert, Herodion, and the Jerusalem forest. Most participants may carry their IDF-issued weapons, although they now use them for other purposes. A man identified as Reserves Lieutenant M is heard saying that his men intend to face "Palestinian policemen, of course, and perhaps even other forces that assist them. But as for Palestinian policemen, I have no doubt that there will be a war, that they will be shot." Asked whether the IDF and the other security forces will be their targets also, M answers: "This question had

better not been asked at all. I seriously fear that this can indeed happen. I know many people who simply cannot turn back. They have been put with their backs to the wall, and they intend to use weapons."

In the next segment of the report, an officer identified as Colonel M, a brigade commander in Judaea and Samaria, denies any knowledge "of the establishment of anything named the Judaea Police, or even of such a term, in Hebron." The officer cautions that the IDF weapons are issued "for self-defense against terrorist activity endangering their bearers. They have no permit to do anything else with those weapons, neither private firing practice nor self-initiated patrols. If we catch people using weapons for purposes other than intended, we will confiscate their weapons."

Hen goes on: "Yet not only the most radical settlers from the Hebron area are trying to set up a Jewish alternative to the Palestinian police. A week ago, settlers from Samaria began organizing. Their self-declared objective: assisting the IDF to cope with stone throwers." Gershon Messika, head of the Samaria Road Safety Committee, says: "Right now we have respect for the Jewish Army, and we take various factors into consideration because we face Jews. If we are faced with Arabs, it can blow up the whole autonomy business, because when we see armed Arabs, we will not be able to trust them to guard our lives. If there are armed Arabs there, I do not doubt what our reaction will be."

In the last part of the report, a university expert is interviewed on the danger of violent Jewish protest. The report ends with the English-accented voice of a man identified on screen as "Y, a former Shaqed elite unit fighter," who says: "We hope that when the Israeli Government decides to abandon this area, it will be sufficiently smart to leave quietly, smart enough to let us be. We will take care of the Arabs. We are not afraid of any Gentile in the world. We will take care of them, and they will eventually go away from here, because there is no other solution. The only solution is for the Arabs to leave; there is no room for them in Eretz Yisra'el. It will be a shame if the Israeli Government makes the error of fighting Jews, of trying to get us out of here." Asked what will happen if the government tries to get the settlers out, Y. replies: "As I said, there is no power or army in the world that can get us out of here." When Hen insists on his question, Y says: "As I said, that is why we are training here. We will not leave."

Nitzan Hen's report is followed by a studio interview with Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who is asked to comment on the report. Rubinstein describes the report subjects as "rings of thugs, lawbreakers, and rebels."

Shin Bet, Army To Prevent New Jewish Underground

TA0905044893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The General Security Services [GSS] have widened the scope of their operation among Jewish settlers in the territories in an attempt to prevent the formation of potential underground organizations. A senior source in the GSS has told Qol Yisra'el that the possibility of underground activities is being taken into account as the peace process gains momentum, though as yet there are no such activities. Attorney General Yosef Harish has instructed the police to investigate two cases of statements made by settlement leaders that included threats to use live ammunition. Qol Yisra'el's legal affairs reporter says the two cases are considered as having crossed the line of freedom of expression and as bordering on calls to rebellion. One of the statements was made by the spokesman of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza local councils, who said he would shoot a bullet into the head of the armed Palestinian autonomy police force, if such a force is established. The attorney general has turned to the police at the request of Meretz Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Law Committee.

The Army has confiscated over recent days the weapons of a number of Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria, members of the committee for road safety. The Army spokesman says the issues of security and maintaining order in the territories are the responsibility of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the other security branches only. He says the Army will not allow anyone else to take the law into his own hands.

In response, Hebron settlements spokesman, No'am Arnon, says if the Army confiscates the weapons of the settlers, they will find alternative ways of getting other weapons.

Deputy Defense Minister: No Plans To Disarm Settlers

TA0905104893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur says that the government has no intention of disarming the settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Deputy Minister Gur told our correspondent that so far the settlers have behaved in a very responsible manner and that their weapons are used for self-defense purposes only.

Ministers Say Government To Foil Settlers' Illegal Acts

TA0905121293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] In its weekly session this morning, the cabinet decided to permit 5,000 additional Arabs from the territories to work in the Israeli agricultural sector.

The ministers also discussed the reports regarding the settlers' preparations for the use of firearms. Minister Mikha Harish told our correspondent that the ministers are unanimous in deciding to nip in the bud any attempts to undermine Israel's democracy. In this context he recalled the threat made by Beni Katzover, one of

the settlers' leaders, to hamper the Knesset's operations by means of demonstrators who will lie prostrate on the roads.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said he has already discussed this issue with the attorney general. He said that investigations will be carried out with the support of the entire government.

Thousands Protest Golan Withdrawal, Call For Elections

TA0905192593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpt] Over 10,000 members of the NRP [National Religious Party] and the Bney 'Aqiva religious youth movement marched on the Golan Heights today to express solidarity with the Jewish residents and to protest against any withdrawal.

Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports that the marchers called on the prime minister to bring the issue of withdrawal from the Golan Heights before the people by holding new elections. [passage omitted]

'Insignificant Minority' of Settlers Behind Radical Talk

TA0905193093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur called on the settlers in Judaea and Samaria not to create a confrontational atmosphere. He met with settlement leaders in his office and was briefed by them on their security problems and difficulties in the fields of employment and welfare.

In the meeting, the settlers' representatives disclaimed responsibility for the radical statements made by individual settlers, and clarified that these people constituted an insignificant minority.

Worker Killed in Explosion at IMI Ramat Hasharon Factory

TA0905145593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Here is a report that was just cleared for publication: One man was killed this afternoon in an explosion that occurred at the IMI [Israel Military Industries] factory in Ramat Hasharon. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik is here in the studio with the details:

The explosion took place a little past 1530 [1230 GMT] this afternoon. A worker in a structure inside the factory, close to the explosion, was killed. So far, there have been no reports of additional casualties. An intensive care unit from the Magen David Adom first aid service was rushed to the scene and declared the employee dead. The intensive care unit was summoned from a Magen David Adom station in Kefar Sava at 1540.

It should be noted that several months ago there was another accident at the same factory, which resulted in the death of an employee. Following the previous accident, a commission was set up to examine work procedures and safety regulations at the factory. The commission subsequently recommended the implementation of a series of improvements. There have not been any reports of damage or casualties in the vicinity of the factory so far, and the explosion was apparently of a local nature. The IMI management is currently investigating the circumstances of the explosion.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Cancellation of Banknotes

Move Will Have 'Serious Repercussions'

PM0705163693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 93 pp1, 4

[Salamah Ni'mat report: "Iraq Closes Its Borders and Cancels Banknotes; Amman Accuses It of 'Theft Equal to the Usurpation of Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] Amman, London—The Jordanian Government has reacted violently to Iraq's decision to close its borders with Jordan and withdraw its old 25-dinar banknotes. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, a Jordanian official source saw that step, which is expected to lead to tension between the two countries, as "a blow to the savings of a large number of citizens." He described it as a "grand theft only paralleled by the attempt to usurp Kuwait." [passage omitted]

The source added that "no information machine hostile to Saddam [Husayn] could achieve what this Iraqi step has achieved as far as its effect on the Jordanian public opinion is concerned, because of the harm it has inflicted on many people in various Jordanian sectors."

He emphasized that the measure "will have serious repercussions for the Iraqi regime's popularity in Jordan." He added that Jordan "had thought that it was helping the Iraqi people and easing their suffering by accepting Iraqi dinars in return for supplies exported by the Jordanians to Iraq." [passage omitted]

Authorities Trying To Avert Losses

JN0805070993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 May 93 pp 1,2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian authorities are in contact with the Iraqi government in an effort to avert the potential losses of Jordanians from Wednesday's Iraqi move to invalidate part of its pre-1990 banknotes, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi said Friday.

"We are in touch with the Iraqi authorities over the issue, and hope to have a clear picture of the situation in the next two days," Dr. al-Nabulsi told the Jordan Times.

The CBJ governor said: "The contacts (with Iraq) are of a general nature without specific reference to any category."

He was answering a question whether Jordan was specifically seeking to ensure that Jordanian exporters who have taken Iraqi banknotes in payment for goods would be compensated for their losses.

It was usual for the Central Bank of Iraq, acting in concert with other concerned ministries and departments, to pay in hard Iraqi currency to pay for imports. In turn, the traders used to take out the money out of Iraq under a special permission and exchange it in the open market.

"It's not a secret that substantial quantities of Iraqi money in Jordan were not smuggled but were brought out with the consent of the Iraqi authorities," Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and trade, was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Dr. al-Nabulsi said the CBJ did not have any official assessment of the volume of the invalidated 25-dinar banknotes in Jordan. But he expressed his personal opinion that it could be in the range of 400 to 500 million Iraqi dinars.

Calculated at 30 Jordanian fils to the dinar, the value of the estimated volume would be around JD 15 million. But independent dealers and banking officials say Jordanians could have lost as much as $100 million.

Fahd al-Fanik, a columnist for the Jordan Times and al-Ra'y, wrote Friday that Jordanians held less than two percent of the invalidated Iraqi currency.

The CBJ governor, who Wednesday asked the security authorities to enforce a total ban on the entry of any Iraqi currency to Jordan, said the Kingdom had not proposed any mechanism or formula to ensure that the invalidation of the so-called "Swiss" notes did not affect Jordanians.

The Iraqi government has set a Monday deadline for the exchange of all 25-dinar "Swiss" notes to the al-Rashid and al-Rafidayn bank branches within the country. Iraq has closed its borders until Monday to check smuggling of the currency into the country.

Moneychangers in Jordan have suspended all dealings in Iraqi dinars, but the embattled currency was changing hands Thursday and Friday at around 10 fils.

"Many people seem to be betting on the chance that government intervention with Baghdad will result in Iraqi government honouring the invalidated notes held by Jordanians," a dealer said.

Thousands of Jordanians who were wagering on the eventual recovery of the Iraqi dinar saw their life-savings wiped away by the withdrawal of the "Swiss" notes, particularly that there was a widely-held belief that Iraq might resort to cancelling post-crisis banknotes rather than the pre-1990, British-printed currency.

Meanwhile Iraq's borders remained closed Friday, with additional Iraqi soldiers deployed along the desert frontier to check smuggling of currency ahead of the Monday deadline for the exchange of the invalidated banknotes.

Diplomats arriving from Baghdad reported seeing very few trucks on the main highway between the Iraqi capital and the Tribil border crossing and said a large number of trucks were on the Jordanian side of the frontier apparently awaiting the border closure to be lifted Monday.

Diplomats and official delegations were exempt on Thursday from the closure, which took effect Wednesday morning. But, according to sources, the closure was total Friday, with even Iraqi diplomats being denied entry into the country.

Relief agencies in Amman said they were trying to get special permission through the Iraqi embassy in Jordan for vehicles carrying humanitarian supplies. Some of them did get special permission Wednesday and Thursday, which explained the few trucks reported by the diplomats.

But no such permission was available Friday, sources said.

The beefing up of border patrols was not limited to Iraq's frontier with Jordan, said an African diplomat who arrived here late Thursday.

According to sources quoted by the French news agency, AFP, about 100 elite Republic Guards have joined regular units of the army in patrolling the nearly 600-kilometre border with Jordan.

Smuggling from Jordan to Iraq had more or less been contained since mid-1992 following the building of a high sandwall along the desert frontier and increased Jordanian patrols.

Oil, Food Trucks Stranded on Border

NC0805140793 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Amman, May 8 (AFP)—Dozens of tanker trucks and food convoys were stranded in Jordan on Saturday as Iraq kept its borders closed for an operation to withdraw foreign-printed notes from circulation, witnesses said.

Empty tanker trucks, on their way to pick up oil from Iraq, and vehicles carrying food and medicine to the Gulf state formed a seven-kilometer (four-mile) queue at the al-Karamah border post.

Jordan imports about 80 percent of its oil from Iraq, 50,000 barrels a day, under an exemption from the United Nations trade embargo against Baghdad since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The vehicles have been stuck in Jordan since Thursday, one day after Iraq closed the border for the six-day operation.

The Baghdad government wants to replace 25-dinar notes printed abroad with ones printed inside the country in a bid to shore up its economy, hit hard by the sanctions.

It sealed the border to curb trafficking and hundreds of Iraqi troops, including elite republican guards, have been enforcing the closure.

Reliable sources at the al-Karamah border-post said several diplomats who tried to cross the border have been turned back.

But the head of the hardline Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nayif Hawatimah, was allowed to leave Iraq on Friday along with his delegation, they added.

In Baghdad, the pro-government Iraqi daily BABIL said on Saturday that the decision to remove from circulation the 25-dinar notes, known as Swiss dinar, was aimed at penalising money hoarders and speculators.

"The decision to scrap the value of billions of Iraqi dinars stashed abroad is the appropriate answer to the crimes of those who wanted to starve and humiliate the Iraqi people," said the daily.

It charged that "increased speculation" had crippled the Iraqi economy.

Twenty-five dinar notes printed abroad before the Gulf crisis were worth three times as much as Iraqi-printed dinars on the black market while a dinar which fetches 3.2 dollars at the official rates is worth 50 on the black market.

Hundreds of Palestinians, Jordanians and Iraqis are at risk of losing at least 40 million dollars worth of "Swiss" dinars because they are now worthless outside the country, according to economic experts in Amman.

Contacts With Iraq Not 'Encouraging'

JN0805203493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Replying to a question from the Jordanian News Agency regarding the outcome of his contacts with Iraqi authorities on permitting the exchange of Iraqi dinars held by Jordanian merchants, Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], said: Apparently, these contacts have not been encouraging, but the CBJ will continue its contacts with competent Iraqi authorities to safeguard the interests of Jordanian merchants harmed by the recent Iraqi decision.

Brotherhood Accuses 'Arafat of 'Treason' for Resuming Talks

JN0905070093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 May 93 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood movement Saturday launched its strongest attack yet on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), accusing it of treason and rejecting the legitimacy of its representation of Palestinian people.

"The PLO's legitimacy as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was established by Arab summits. But let the PLO put this issue to the people and they will decide on that," Ibrahim Khuraysat, spokesman of the Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament, told a press conference.

"The (legitimacy) of representation comes from the will of the people and not from the decisions of summits," influential Brotherhood Deputy Humam Sa'id added.

Mr. Khuraysat's attack on the PLO came one day after demonstrators at a march organised by the Brotherhood at al-Wihdat refugee camp accused Palestinian delegates to the Arab-Israeli peace talks of treason and called for killing them.

"The PLO has committed treason by going to the peace talks. All Arab regimes that sanctioned the participation in the talks have committed treason," Brotherhood Deputy Ziyad Abu-Ghunaymah told the JORDAN TIMES at the end of the press conference.

Deputy chief of mission at the Palestinian embassy in Amman 'Umar al-Khatib said a reply to the Brotherhood charges will come from the PLO leadership in Tunis. He said, however, that the Palestinian people are the party which decides who represent them.

"The (Palestinian) people have chosen the PLO" as their representative, he said.

Tension between the PLO and the Brotherhood heightened after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accused the brotherhood of interfering in internal Palestinian affairs when they sent him a letter urging the withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel.

In the letter, copies of which were sent to all Arab parties to the peace talks, the Botherhood deputies asserted that participation in the peace talks contradicts the will of the Palestinian people which demands the liberation of all its occupied land.

The Brotherhood said the PLO broke its own word by agreeing to attend the ninth round of the peace talks, which started in Washington on April 28, before the repatriation of all Palestinians who were expelled by Israel to South Lebanon in December last year.

The Arab-Israeli peace talks came to a halt after Israel expelled the 417 Palestinians who it accused of being activists of the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad.

The Brotherhood, which opposes Arab-Israeli talks on ideological grounds and advocates war against Israel to liberate all of Palestine accused the PLO of abandoning the expellees by agreeing to resume the talks befre they are allowed to return to the occupied territories in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799.

"We are bewildered by your decision to pursue American lies" and attend the peace talks, the Brotherhood deputies told Mr. 'Arafat and other Arab leaders in the letter.

Mr. 'Arafat reportedly rejected the Brotherhood's letter as intervention in Palestinian affairs, saying that Palestinian decisions are taken through a democratic process.

In a new letter they tried to send to Mr. 'Arafat Sunday, the Brotherhood deputies claimed that the will of the Palestinian people was not heeded by the decision to go to the ninth round of the talks. "Where is democracy (in decision making) when the majority of the Palestinian people announced their rejection of the decision (to go back) to the talks?" read the letter.

The deputies accused the PLO of making numerous concessions detrimental to the interests of the Palestinian people and said they hold the organisation responsible for "every concession made in the Palestinian and Arab positions" in the peace talks.

"Other Arab parties will not have gone to the peace talks had it not been for your decision" to resume them, said the deputies in the letter, which Mr. al-Khatib said the Palestinian embassy refused to receive.

Mr. Khuraysat said that some of Mr. 'Arafat's statements make the PLO the only body with the right to speak about the Palestinian problem "But we are part of the Muslim Arab nation and thus give ourselves the right to speak about the Palestinian issue," he said.

Mr. Khuraysat and other Brotherhood deputies said they reject divisions among Arab states and to speak of the sovereignty of some states is to accept the borders that colonial powers drew in the Arab world.

"It is a legitimate national and Islamic duty to speak against the destruction (of the nation)" Brotherhood Deputy Hamzah Mansur said.

"We are not against the PLO but against its leadership which wants to continue making concessions" to Israel, said Brotherhood Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr.

In the press conference, the Brotherhood deputies also urged Jordan to take a clear stand in support of the expellees and the implementation of Resolution 799.

They also called for te lifting of sanctions against Iraq, condemned the visit of former U.S.-President George Bush to Kuwait and what they called the "colonial occupation of Somalia and urged Arab and Muslim countries to stand by the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Brotherhood deputies congratulated Sudan on its "achievements," and Yemen on the success of its parliamentary elections and condemned what they called state terrorism exercised by governments against their people.

"We demand that these regimes give their people freedom in order to prevent internal conflicts which can only benefit the enemies."

Sources React to Israeli Proposal, Talks

Proposal Called 'Trap'

NC0805052793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] A senior parliamentary source has described the Israeli proposal as an Israeli trap and stressed the need to remain committed to Resolution 425.

The source warned against falling into the verbal traps laid by Israel and said it sees nothing new whatsoever in the offer made by Israel during the latest round of negotiations. The source stressed the need to be committed to the principles guiding the Lebanese delegation, which are based on the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories. It said that the text of the Israeli document constitutes a retraction from Resolution 425 and reveals the true Israeli position of playing with words, exactly as it did with Resolution 242 with regard to the terms the territories and territories.

While there is no progress on the Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian tracks, the Lebanese reply to the Israeli proposal is expected to take shape within 48 hours. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi will carry this reply immediately to the negotiating delegation in Washington for submission to the ninth round of meetings, which will resume on Monday.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation, has stated that the delegation asked the Israeli team a number of questions about the proposal. He said: We asked the Israelis to specify the answers, their meanings, and political contents. He added that these answers will help put matters in the right perspective so that the Israeli document can be read and fully understood with all its meanings and contents.

Positions 'Divided' Over Document

NC0805055993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] Political stands are divided over the Israeli document on Israel's readiness to completely withdraw from south Lebanon in return for establishing joint military committees that will supervise the situation after the withdrawal.

While Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz believes that the Israeli proposals contain positive points, even if they need further clarifications and scheduling, sources close to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri have been cited as saying that there is a need to remain committed to Resolution 425. The same sources warned against falling into Israel's verbal traps. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Foreign Ministry sources have reported that the Israeli proposal includes all the Lebanese demands, but that Israel listed them in an unclear sequence. This requires that they be reformulated according to what Lebanon believes appropriate. The same sources added that the Israeli proposal was made in view of the fact that the United States is pressuring Israel so that enough progress will be made in the negotiations to justify holding another round. The sources also said that both Washington and Israel are now convinced of the need to achieve this progress.

Hizballah Warns Against Proposal

NC0805073893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Hizballah has objected to giving any assurances or guarantees for the security of the usurping enemy. In a statement it issued yesterday, Hizballah referred to what is being said about new security arrangements with the enemy and warned against falling in the Zionist traps, which are preparing the way for perpetuating interference in southern Lebanon's security and subsequently in the security of all of Lebanon.

The statement affirmed that our people, who have confronted the 17 May agreement, will not hesitate to frustrate such guarantees to safeguard the resistance's sacrifices, course, and great accomplishments.

Hizballah drew attention to the fact that nine rounds of bilateral negotiations already have been held and that the Lebanese negotiator cannot claim to have received a single public Zionist commitment to accept a mechanism for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425, on the basis of which Lebanon entered the negotiations. The statement wonders what happened to the Lebanese demand for an unconditional Zionist withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The enemy, the statement said, clearly rejected this demand and insisted on the conclusion of a peace treaty. How do some officials explain the huge difference between the ideal Resolution 425 and the Zionist conditions, which allow no alternative to normalization?

Hizballah reaffirmed, on the basis of the resistance's experience, that the blows being dealt to the occupation are the only guaranteed way to force the enemy to withdraw unconditionally from our occupied territory.

Minister: Proposal 'Still Vague'

NC0805194093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the latest Israeli proposal about forming a joint military working group comprises Israel's views about peace and the method of withdrawal from Lebanon. He said it requires a Lebanese counterproposal so that the negotiations can reach a solution satisfactory to all parties.

Pointing out that the Israeli proposal includes some new aspects, he said this is not bad, but these aspects are still vague and need further clarification and discussion.

In remarks to our radio this evening, Buwayz reported that the discussions in Damascus dealt with the governmental situation in Israel, assessed the progress of the negotiations on the various tracks, and emphasized the common Lebanese-Syrian view of the proposed withdrawals.

Buwayz asserted that the Lebanese agree among themselves that the Israeli proposal must be evaluated and they are united in their opinion over the broad outlines of the Lebanese counterproposal.

Hizballah Deputy Rejects Proposal

NC0905065993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 May 93

[Excerpts] There is extraordinary activity on the local scene to draft an appropriate response to the Israeli proposal on security arrangements in the south. [passage omitted]

Rejecting the Israeli proposal, [Hizballah] Deputy Hajj Muhammad Funaysh has warned against accepting a plan that would lead to a clash with the resistance. He said there is no progress toward an unconditional Zionist withdrawal, but toward an Israeli attempt to embroil Lebanon in plans that would create rifts among the Arabs, incite Lebanese authorities against the resistance, and obstruct the resistance through the formation of a joint military committee.

Foreign Minister Comments

NC0905165993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has called on Israel to implement the principles laid down by the Madrid peace conference and the contents contained in the messages of assurances by the sponsors of the peace process.

In a statement to Saudi newspaper AL-RIYAD, Buwayz called on the Israeli Government to treat the talks with seriousness so that there will be a justification to continue the peace process and hold subsequent rounds of talks.

Response to Israel 'Almost Ready'

NC0905123293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1151 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The Lebanese answer to the Israeli proposals is almost ready. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi may carry the answer with him to Washington in the next few hours and lay it on the negotiating table tomorrow. The Lebanese side has declined to reveal details of the answer, but diplomatic sources say it contains three elements:

First, Israel should unambiguously recognize UN Security Council Resolution 452 and its implementation clauses.

Second, a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the south and western al-Biqa', containing specific dates and arrangements, should be formulated.

Third, the joint military working team should supervise the security arrangements accompanying and following the withdrawal.

Envoy on Response to Israel

NC0905163293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 May 93

[Interview with Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations and deputy head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks, by an unidentified radio correspondent at Beirut Airport on 9 May—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Ambassador, you leave today for Washington with the official Lebanese answer to the Israeli proposals and ideas. Can give us a general outline of that answer?

[Makkawi] As you may know, this is not the first time for Israel to present proposals or ideas concerning the talks with Lebanon. Lebanon always deals with these proposals on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's immediate withdrawal from all Lebanese territories. Since the beginning of the negotiations and up to this moment, our ideas and stands have been formulated on this basis. We answer any proposals and ideas presented by the Israeli delegation in a way that guarantees the achievement of this national goal.

[Correspondent] So, should we consider the Lebanese answer to Israeli proposals a positive or a negative one?

[Makkawi] We are always positive, because justice is on our side. Lebanon is occupied; Lebanese land is occupied. Therefore, we can only be positive. The other side should also be positive. This is what we hope will happen.

[Correspondent] Ambassador, there are two bodies of opinion in Lebanon: One that says that Israel is playing with words and another that sees some positive signs. What is you opinion in this regard?

[Makkawi] During the 48 hours or more that I spent here, I did not perceive any such difference of opinion. All government officials see the situation clearly. There is a clear Lebanese position and we are pursuing it consistently.

[Correspondent] You recently visited Damascus, together with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and met with Syrian officials. Was the Lebanese position in harmony with the Syrian position with regard to the answer to the Israeli proposals?

[Makkawi] As you may know, we always seek to coordinate and consult with the Syrian and other brothers. The main goal of these talks is to find a comprehensive

solution on all tracks. Lebanon is always in touch with Syria, our sister. We coordinate our efforts to achieve a just solution.

[Correspondent] It is being said that Israel, through the proposals and ideas it represented, is largely trying to avoid the implementation of Resolution 425, but in a diplomatic way. Do you agree with this?

[Makkawi] Actually, it is very important that the United States promised to play an effective role. There is every indication that the United States seeks to play an effective role. Therefore, there is no way that Israel can justify its occupation—which has lasted 15 years now—of Lebanese territories. Lebanon is, after all, a founding member of the United Nations. It is high time the occupation ended and Israel left Lebanese soil.

[Correspondent] My last question: Do you think that there will be a 10th round of talks following this one? Or will some solutions, even partial, be found during the 9th round?

[Makkawi] We hope that during this round we will be able at least to extract from Israel a commitment to withdraw from south Lebanon, not just in answer to our demand, but to international demands.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Ambassador.

[Makkawi] You are welcome.

'Immediate Withdrawal' From Talks Urged

NC0905082393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: We have explicitly announced from the very beginning that negotiations with the Zionist enemy, which is usurping our lands and coveting our waters, resources, and all capabilities, is not the right way to restore the occupied territories and deter the enemy's aggression and growing ambitions. We said the negotiations are futile—a waste of time and a mess in which legitimate and internationally recognized rights are largely lost.

But the government insisted on going to Madrid and Washington to sit at the negotiating table as the best way to implement Resolution 425. Now, nine rounds into the process, can the government claim it obtained Zionist, or even U.S., recognition of its declared objective of setting a mechanism for the implementation of Resolution 425, which provides for the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionists from one-tenth of our country?

It transpired that the latest Zionist document, written in difficult and complicated English—which took the Foreign Ministry's working team about four hours to translate into Arabic—does not commit Israel to positions on key issues, such as compliance with Resolution 425. Is this document the greatest hope from the negotiations? Is it not striking evidence of the futility of achieving even a minimum level of sovereignty and national dignity?

Is it not time for the officials to realize that the negotiations will not attain any positive results? Is it not time for them to keep their old promises and join the convoy of resistance so that all the Lebanese—of all classes, regions, and sects—can shoulder their responsibilities toward their threatened homeland in genuine and unbreakable national unity?

People in the government are now duty-bound to truly defend the homeland through an immediate withdrawal from the negotiations farce, adherence to the resisting Lebanese masses, providing all factors of steadfastness to the people in frontline villages, and issuing explicit orders to the Army to confront Zionist aggression. The Army is a fence for the homeland, not a decoration for celebrations and official and tourist festivals. Under General Lahhud, the Lebanese Army is now capable of defending the homeland against the Zionists' ambitions. It is no longer the Army of sects, leaders, and regions; it lacks only a clear political decision to confront and resist the occupiers.

Will the people in the government be in harmony with the feelings of the Lebanese people, or will they once again move within the labyrinths of the U.S.-Zionist promises, standing as a stumbling block between the resistance and the occupiers? If, God forbid, they are dragged into this tunnel, then the Lebanese people will not have mercy on anyone that bargained and colluded with the enemy, as this will be branded as cursed treason.

The brave Lebanese people will continue to adhere to the option of resistance. There will be no normalization, conciliation, or capitulation to the Zionist enemy, and every step in this direction will go with the wind, with night dreams, and with the nation's awakening to the dawn of dignity, freedom, and might.

Al-Asad Says Israel Getting 'Serious' About Peace

NC0905163993 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 9 (AFP)—Israeli negotiators are starting to show they are serious about making peace with the Arabs, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said in remarks obtained Sunday [9 May].

"Israeli delegations took no steps forward" during the eight previous rounds of Middle East peace talks, al-Asad said in an interview to appear in Monday's edition of the AL-WASAT weekly.

"But we have the impression that the Israeli negotiators are starting to become serious" since the start of the ninth round on April 27 in Washington, al-Asad said.

The ninth session is to end this week.

"The favorable trend toward peace has gained strength within Israel in the last two years and that can only have an influence on the leaders" of the Jewish state, al-Asad said in a copy of the interview obtained by AFP.

But Israeli negotiators must still do more to reassure the Arabs about their intentions. "We really want peace, but our doubts persist as to whether Israel wants peace," the Syrian president was quoted as saying.

"When Syria (last year) proposed total peace in exchange for a complete withdrawal (from Arab land occupied by Israel), it was an enormous step forward aimed at putting the ball in the Israeli court," he said.

But "they did not accept our proposal," he added.

Al-Asad also said one of the four Arab parties in the peace negotiations might reach a bilateral accord with Israel before the others and still not violate an Arab stand against separate peace deals.

"We are involved in this process together, and consequently, even if one of the parties reaches a bilateral accord, it will not be a separate peace," he said.

The four Arab parties are the Syrians, the Lebanese, Jordanians and Palestinians.

"Any peace which is not comprehensive cannot last," he said.

The official Syrian news media meanwhile were pessimistic about the ninth round.

"If things stay where they are, the peace process will be threatened," AL-THAWRAH newspaper said. The United States, which sponsors the talks with Russia, "must hurry to save the negotiations."

Political sources in Lebanon said meanwhile that Beirut would ask Israel for a timetable for a withdrawal from south Lebanon in compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

Such a timetable was not contained in an Israeli document submitted during the current peace round, the sources said.

In the document, however, Israel recognizes for the first time the principle of a total withdrawal, according to a Lebanese official who requested anonymity.

The document also asks for the creation of Israeli-Lebanese military committees to plan the withdrawal and ensure security along Israel's border, he said.

The Lebanese want the Israelis to clarify the role of these committees, the political sources said.

Lebanon's al-Hariri, Buwayz Arrive for Talks

JN0705174093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, accompanied by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, arrived in Damascus at 1930 today on a visit to Syria. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and senior Foreign Ministry officials welcomed them at Damascus International Airport.

Al-Hariri made a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY upon arrival. He voiced happiness to be in his second country, saying that during this visit he will hold talks with Syrian officials dealing with the peace process and the latest developments in the peace talks in Washington, as well as the two fraternal countries' coordination on this issue.

Meet With Khaddam

JN0705201293 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 2000 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] At 2000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, the peace talks, and bilateral relations.

Al-Zu'bi Receives al-Hariri

JN0805100493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1100 today.

Talks at the meeting dealt with relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two sisterly countries, and issues of common interest.

Buwayz on Visit's Goals

NC0905063693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 May 93

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified reporters following Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's meeting with Syrian counterpart Mahmud al-Zu'bi in Damascus on 8 May—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] The visit here has three aims. The first is to discuss the new development in the Israeli arena, that is in the Israeli Government, following the resignation of one minister. Naturally, this issue is bound to have repercussions on the negotiations; therefore, an accurate and clear assessment that considered all the possibilities that might arise was necessary between us. The second aim concerns achieving peace. This peace is supposed to be comprehensive. This presupposes that progress on all tracks must be balanced. Hence, we have to know what is taking place on the Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks so that the stands can be harmonious, especially with regard to the issue of the peace process. The third aim is to formulate a common concept of the Arab security requirements—or the Arab concept of the way the withdrawals will be conducted—and how to deal with these withdrawals. The talks naturally dealt with these issues, and there was complete agreement on the diagnosis and on how to deal with these issues.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, regarding specifically the Israeli proposal, can it be said that the reply will be a positive one or concerned with clarifying certain points?

[Buwayz] I have already said that the Israeli proposal—which is merely a working paper, a negotiating paper—includes some new signs, but these lack accuracy and clarity. Hence, the job of any paper or the negotiating team is to elicit clarifications or the required accuracy. The Lebanese reply will, of course, stress some of the proposed positive points, will ask that some points be clarified, and express reservations about other points that are not in line with the Lebanese stand.

[Reporter] How do you assess the Israeli Government's position?

[Buwayz] This is, in fact, a principal issue today. This issue undoubtedly has fundamental repercussions for the negotiations process. This basically justifies the reason for the visit and consultations. I believe that the Israeli prime minister has several options on how to take either of two main courses of action. The first is either to beef up the government or make some slight changes, and the second is to change the government and form a new one that is more harmonious with the negotiations process. It is in fact very clear that there is a split in the coalition between the prime minister and the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party. I believe that there is a possibility of either replacing the SHAS representatives with some Orthodox Jews or strengthening Meretz' representation in the government. In all cases—and I say this with reservations—speculation about this issue remains vague. At any rate, we have to follow closely what is happening because it could affect the negotiating process and the nature of the proposed Lebanese reply. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi will leave tomorrow to rejoin the delegation and will brief it on our general policy. I will provide the delegation as soon as possible, certainly before Monday morning, with the Lebanese reply. Maybe this wait is necessary in view of what is happening in Israel.

Lebanese Leaders Leave

JN0805151193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 May (SANA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Damascus this afternoon, concluding two days of talks with top Syrian officials.

They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and other senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Israeli Ministerial Crisis 'Fabricated' To Foil Talks

JN0905154893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 My 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria and the Arabs are proposing the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy, UN resolutions, and the U.S. land-for-peace intitiative. Meanwhile, Israel continues its maneuvering and prevarication and keeps casting doubts on the Arabs' peace intentions despite the fact that the entire world community is convinced of the Arabs' seriousness in seeking peace.

During the ninth round, many observers expected Israel to change its stands, abandon its prevarication and equivocation, and be ready to discuss actual implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. This was especially expected after the efforts that were exerted to hold the ninth round, the active move made by the head of U.S. diplomacy, Christopher in the region, statements made prior to this round, and the U.S. Administration's announcement that it is willing to play the role of an active and honest partner in the talks. However, the past days of the ninth round do not show that Israel changed its methods.

During the past two weeks of this round, essential issues were discussed, but the Israeli side is still adhering to its stands which are not conducive to achieving essential and tangible progress. On the Syrian track, Israeli intransigence reached its peak when the Israeli side rejected the principle of comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Golan and refused to comply with what is stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 242. In response to

the Syrian ideas, which were presented by our delegation during the sixth round and received wide international interest, the Israeli side is still presenting repetitive and reworded ideas that are rejected because they are not based on international legitimacy and its resolutions. When the Israeli side gives the impression that Israel accepts the concept of withdrawal, it is emphasizing that it is a conditional withdrawal that contradicts the bases of the peace process.

The other tracks of talks were not any better than the Syrian track because the Israeli delegations are not concerned with achieving peace expect on the basis of the Israeli concept which contradicts all bases on which the Madrid conference was held. On the Lebanese track, the Israeli delegation presented an ambiguous, complicated, and difficult document that requires answers to many questions in order to clarify its contents. As for the Palestinian track, what has been presented so far includes nothing new. The document, which was presented to the Palestinians, ignores the Jerusalem issue and seeks to consecrate the presence of settlements inside the occupied Arab territories. Meanwhile, the self-rule plan seeks to legitimize the occupation and provides the Palestinians with municipal powers only.

The Arab delegations taking part in the peace talks tomorrow will meet again with the Israeli side while the atmosphere in Israel is overcast with a ministerial crisis. Israeli newspapers themselves admitted that this is a fabricated crisis through which Israeli Prime Minister Rabin seeks to reshuffle the cabinet in order to introduce some religious and right-wing parties into his government.

Moreover, this week's talks will be held amid escalating and conflicting Israeli Government statements, especially statements by Prime Minister Rabin and government figures in the course of dividing roles among themselves.

Hence, it seems that when Rabin came into a situation whereby he has to confront facts before the international community, after the Arabs proved to the entire world their willingness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, he found no choice but to trigger a ministerial crisis in order to waste the remaining third of the ninth round.

The picture now is totally clear to the international community, to major world powers, and to the cosponsors of the peace process. They all should be alert to the dangers behind Israel's prevaricating and obstructionist stand toward the peace process.

Al-Shar' Discusses Peace Talks, Other Issues

JN1005093493 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 6-12 May 93 pp 20-21

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Buthaynah Abu-'Ubayd in Dubayy; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Ubayd] Where do you think the ninth round of talks is headed?

[Al-Shar'] The ninth round resumed with great difficulty and after immense efforts to eliminate the obstacles in its way. It was clear that the obstacles were placed by Israel, and not by the Arabs. Israel has deported more than 400 Palestinians, leaving them in the open, refusing to implement the UN resolution that demands their immediate return. Israel has also imposed a siege on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, suppressing and oppressing Palestinians. It also used suppressive methods to prevent Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan from celebrating Syria's independence day.

Israel, moreover, has not stopped shelling Lebanese villages. All these things confirm that Israel wants to place one obstacle after another before the negotiations. We managed to crystallize a unified stand in the recent Damascus meeting, and we came out with a strong statement, affirming our commitment to peace on the one hand, and the need to eliminate these obstacles on the other. We also held the U.S. Administration responsible for the continuation of Israeli suppression.

In this context, contacts with the U.S. Administration have emphasized the Clinton administration's commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process, that is, implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace principle, as well as acknowledging the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

The unified Arab decision we came up with at the Damascus meeting gave a new chance to the cosponsors, the United States and Russia, to make additional efforts during the ninth round so as to achieve positive, concrete results. We hope that the peace process will make progress.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Do you think the negotiators will succeed in reaching a solution this time, or that this round will end just like the others?

[Al-Shar'] This depends on how true Israel's intentions are with regard to the current peace talks. It also depends on U.S. efforts to advance the peace process and put pressure on Israel to make it abide by the terms of reference of the peace process and implement Security Council resolutions.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Do you give credibility to Israel's declared guarantees at the beginning of the ninth round?

[Al-Shar'] Actually, we attach greater importance to U.S. commitments toward us, because we do not trust Israel's pledges, especially its vague verbal ones.

[Abu-'Ubayd] After the beginning of the current round of negotiations, the U.S. role backtracked from that of a full partner to that of mediator. Does this affect the success of the round?

[Al-Shar'] The United States, through Secretary of State Warren Christopher, has announced it will assume the

role of full partner and fair mediator during the bilateral peace talks. We hope this will materialize. We will be testing the U.S. role to see how things will proceed from now on in the talks.

[Abu-'Ubayd] If the ninth round fails and reaches a deadend, what steps will the Arab side take?

[Al-Shar'] This will further complicate matters and the peace process will become more difficult to pursue. The opposition to the peace process within Palestinian and Arab circles will also increase.

It goes without saying that in all cases Israel will be responsible for the consequences. The Arabs will not agree to give up any of their rights. They insist on regaining sovereignty over all their territories as stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions. Israel must abide by these resolutions as they are binding in all cases and are not subject to Israel's rejection or acceptance.

We, as Arabs, have remained committed to such resolutions in many past crises such as the Gulf crisis. We were sincere and eager to implement these resolutions.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Does this implicitly mean that Syria is ready to withdraw from the negotiations if the ninth round fails?

[Al-Shar'] It is premature to speak about whether we will withdraw. We believe that the decision to pursue the peace process should be made within the framework of an Arab meeting to emerge with a united Arab stand and to avoid any Arab party monopolizing the decision. We announced this at the Damascus meetings, and emphasized its importance in case a decision should be made to pursue or suspend the peace process.

[Abu-'Ubayd] But Syria brandishes the threat of withdrawal from the talks every time an obstacle appears heralding the futility of negotiations.

[Al-Shar'] As I said, a united Arab stand is the basis for making a decision to withdraw. Such a decision, therefore, should be subjected to Arab unanimity.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Within the framework of this unified Arab position, what is Syria's position on the current U.S.-Israeli emphasis on reaching a separate agreement with Syria?

[Al-Shar'] We support a comprehensive peace in the region and implementing Security Council resolutions on all fronts. Former U.S. President George Bush's initiative in particular was based on the concept of a comprehensive solution and on implementing this solution on all fronts in order to achieve just, comprehensive, and real peace.

Within this context, I think it is natural that emphasis be put on the Syrian front due to the important and central role which Syria is playing, and not because we seek a separate agreement. We support a comprehensive and just solution on all fronts. The decision adopted by the Damascus meetings emphasizes this.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Do you have an alternative?

[Al-Shar'] In the first place, in Syria we have our self-reliance. Then comes our commitment to national unity, of which we are proud. The national unity we are experiencing in Syria puts us us in a strong position in our steadfastness against the Israeli aggression. Syria is also working for Arab solidarity to help all Arab confrontation states face any Israeli aggressions.

We also believe that Israel, which seeks to normalize its relations with most, if not all, Arab countries should never realize this objective as long as its occupation of the Arab territories and its rejection of implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning this occupation continue. I seize this opportunity to ask our Arab brothers to support the Arab countries participating in the bilateral peace process until the aspired results are achieved. I also draw their attention to the importance that no progress should take place in the multilateral talks before the bilateral talks realize what we hope of them.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Will war not be the alternative that is imposed on you?

[Al-Shar'] We are currently speaking about realizing peace, and we will continue to do so as much as we can. If peace is not realized, Israel will continue to be isolated in the area and condemned by the whole world. This in itself represents a fatal point of weakness for Israel, and it will be the beginning of its collapse.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Will the picture change much if the United States applies pressure on the Arab countries, particularly the Arab countries bordering Israel, to accept normalization with Israel?

[Al-Shar'] We will never accept normalization with Israel as long as it occupies any inch of Arab territories. So far, the United States has not employed pressures toward this objective. It will not do so before the Security Council resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict are fully implemented. If such pressures are employed, we should reject them. We will do so and will tell the United States that without full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories there will be no normalization between the Arabs and Israel.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Reports indicate that some Islamic countries are involved in terrorist operations, particularly the New York explosion. What do you have to say to this?

[Al-Shar'] The Arabs have not known terrorism throughout their history. However, it appeared in the region with the establishment of Israel, and even before this. We all recall the terrorist Zionist organizations and the massacres they perpetrated in Palestine.

Also, if there has been any violence on the Arab and Islamic side, it was a necessary response to the violence

and extremism on the Jewish side, and Jewish fundamentalism is one of the most fanatical religious movements in the world.

This is not only what we in Syria believe. This is also the view of renowned Western analysts and strategists, whether in Europe or America. Unfortunately, Western media, which are controlled by the Zionist lobby, try to ignore these facts about Jewish fundamentalism and how it resorts to violence, terrorism, and assassinations.

We do not rule out the possibility that the New York World Trade Center explosion is part of this trend as the information we have does not confirm the involvement of any Arab or Islamic party in this terrorist operation.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Concerning the terrorist operations in Egypt, do you not believe Iran supports them?

[Al-Shar'] We have no proof of this, neither do I believe that others have proof. We are against such operations and absolutely do not condone them. We condemn any foreign interference in Egyptian domestic affairs.

[Abu-'Ubayd] How do you view the Damascus Declaration and its future?

[Al-Shar'] The Damascus Declaration meetings have been postponed more than once, particularly the finance and economy ministers meetings. However, we deduced during our meetings on the margin of the Karachi Islamic foreign ministers conference that the countries which had signed the Damascus Declaration are decided on this issue. A finance and economy ministers meeting will be held on 18 May, and another meeting of the declaration countries' foreign ministers will be convened on 12 June in Abu Dhabi.

With respect to the future of the declaration, we have understood that the eight countries practically implement all the aspects of the Damascus Declaration.

[Abu-'Ubayd] Under the current circumstances, how do you assess Arab solidarity and how can it be revitalized?

[Al-Shar'] Syria has always called for Arab solidarity, as President Hafiz al-Asad has emphasized on every important occasion. Syria also emphasizes the need to revive Arab and Islamic solidarity as this will greatly help the Arabs face the current challenges.

We highly value the endeavors by head of state Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to revive Arab solidarity and his recurrent calls to close Arab ranks. I believe that coordination between our two countries under leaders Zayid and al-Asad, is a an important guarantee for pushing ahead the idea of Arab solidarity and attaining it in the foreseeable future, God willing.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Asks Pakistan To Downplay Peace Pact

BK0905112993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 May 93 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—As the entire mojahedin leadership is busy in Jalalabad parleys, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has reportedly sent a message to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressing reservations about the implementation of Islamabad Accord.

Sources confided to THE NEWS that the Afghan President has requested his Pakistani counterpart not to stress upon the implementation of Nawaz Sharif's brokered Islamabad Accord as the Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was unable to meet the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Presidential spokesman Habib Murad informed journalists in Jalalabad about Rabbani's letter to his Pakistan counterpart. He, however, did not divulge the contents of the letter saying it pertained to the implementation of the accord.

The Jalalabad meeting is being held in order to form a new Afghan cabinet in accordance with the Islamabad Accord authorising Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar to head the new government in Kabul. Afghan sources said it seemed that Rabbani was totally ignoring the Islamabad Accord as he stressed the need to modify some portions of the accord.

Mojahedin leaders still await the return of Professor Sayyaf who held discussions with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on the future of political set-up in Kabul and was busy in brokering a ceasefire between forces loyal to Mas'ud and Hekmatyar in Parwan Province. Afghan sources claimed that government forces had an upper hand over the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] who, according to them, was losing ground and has lost almost all the major bases to its rivals.

However, the Hezb sources did not accept the reports and termed it a mere propaganda. At present four out of the nine mojahedin parties including the Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar), NIFA [National Islamic Front of Afghanistan] of Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, the National Liberation Front of Professor Mojadeddi and Shi'ite Hezb-e Wahadat [Islamic Unity Party] are opposed to the appointment of Mas'ud as the defence minister while the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] of President Rabbani, the Ettehad-e Islami [Islamic Union Party] of Professor Rasul Sayyaf and Ayatollah Mohsini led Shi'ite group are supporting Mas'ud.

Two mojahedin parties led by Nabi Mohammadi and Mowlawi Yunes Khales, however, stay neutral in the ongoing power tussle between the groups while Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, it appears, has changed his previous stand supporting Mas'ud. In a recent statement he proposed that defence and interior ministries should not go to warring groups. Meanwhile some Afghan sources are of the opinion that Mas'ud might quit the office provided he completely takes over the Parwan Province which borders the Afghan capital. Sources add that Mas'ud, like Dostam, wants to demonstrate his power by capturing a province near Kabul.

It is also reported that the ex-Afghan prime minister Ustad 'Abdol Farid who fought with Mas'ud's men in Parwan has shifted to a safer place and is stated to be either in the Kapisa Province or in Jalalabad following the defeat of his forces in the week-long fierce fighting.

Meanwhile experts believe a powerful Hezb commander in Parwan, Karim Abid could seal the fate of Hekmatyar's party in the northern province if he chooses to switch sides and join hands with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud on ethnic basis.

Gilani Denies Interference in Tajik Affairs

LD0905175693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The foreign minister of Afghanistan has denied that his country is interfering in Tajikistan's internal affairs and has expressed the hope that the internal conflicts of the region's countries may be be resolved as soon as possible. Seyyed Soleyman Gilani said when interviewed by Iranian correspondents in Kabul that when meeting the foreign minister of Tajikistan in Karachi, he discussed the return of 70,000 Tajik refugees to their country.

The Afghanistan foreign minister said: The foreign policy of the Afghanistan Government is based on mutual respect and non- interference in other countries' internal affairs. Kabul intends to have political, economic, and cultural relations with all countries of the world, especially with neighboring countries. Gilani added that so far 38 countries have agreed to establish political relations with Afghanistan.

Factions Fighting in Kabul 6 May

LD0805214493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Reports from Kabul say that groups of Sayyaf [leader of Ettehad-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, Islamic Union of Afghanistan] and the Supervisory Council launched attacks on Thursday on centers of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and some Shiite residential areas to the west of Kabul City. The report says that some Hezb-e Wahdat members and local residents were killed and injured. Houses of the defenseless and oppressed people of the area were also damamged. So far no details about the number of casualties have been received.

Jihadi Commanders Pledge To End Kabul Blockade

LD0705163993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0230 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] A broad meeting of jihadi commanders of the [Kabul] city and its surrounding areas was held today in the Ministry of Internal Affairs to discuss ways to open supply roads and to remove Kabul city's economic blockade which has been going on for some time by certain selfish elements. The meeting was attended by Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, deputy prime minister and minister of internal affairs.

BAKHTAR's military correspondent reports that the deputy prime minister and minister of internal affairs spoke first at this meeting and explained the heroism and enormous gains of the Afghan nation's jihad and he called on the commanders not to let filthy hands to operate any longer and thus increase further the pains of our persecuted people.

A number of jihadi commanders then spoke on behalf of the others and they gave assurances that the commanders and mojahed brothers will not allow anyone to bring shame to our jihad gains by perpetrating actions against the sacred religion of Islam.

At the end of the meeting a resolution was issued by the jihadi commanders of the city and surrounding areas of Kabul Province. The resolution says, part: We, the jihadi commanders of Kabul Province, will no longer allow anyone to close highways and thus annoy the citizens of Kabul. We have also informed the Islamic State that if the supply roads remain closed any longer we will enforce our final decision in opening the supply roads.

India

U.S. Trade Action Described as 'Unwarranted'

BK0705125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The Government has described as unwarranted the unilateral action of the United States to designate India as a priority foreign country under its Special 301 legislation. The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, told the Lok Sabha today that the Government will impress upon Washington that issues like patents must be resolved through the multilateral system. In a statement, Mr. Mukherji said the availability of drugs at affordable prices is a of utmost concern to the government. He said the Government's view is that any patent system must recognize both the rewarding of an inventor and the vital public interest (?needs).

Army Chief Visits Kashmir Frontline Areas

BK0705160293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Indian Army Chief Sunit Rodriguez today visited front line areas adjoining the Pakistani border in occupied Kashmir. In Jammu, a spokesman of the Indian Defense Ministry has said that the Army chief has ordered deployment of additional forces in all strategically important vital, front line areas, and high altitude mountain passes.

Rights Groups' Report on Kashmir Rebutted

BK0905032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Government has described as exaggerated and not borne out by facts a report of the U.S.-based Asia Watch and Physicians for Human Rights on Kashmir which has alleged that security forces are committing rapes. An official spokesman, commenting on the report titled: "Rape in Kashmir—a Crime of War," said the Government has been highly sensitive to allegations against the security forces and investigations into such allegations have been found to be incorrect and lacking in authenticity.

Committee Indicts Four Foreign Banks in Scam

BK0705160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The Janakiraman Committee of the RBI [Reserve Bank of India] has indicted four foreign banks—Citibank, Standard Chartered, Bank of America and the ANZ Grindlays—as the major players in the security scandal accounting for more than 50 percent of the irregularities. In its sixth and final report, the committee blamed the close nexus between brokers and certain banks. It said this enabled the brokers to gain unauthorized access to funds. Brokers Hiten Dalal, Harshad Mehta and Bhupen Champaklal Devidas were in the big lead with more than 10,000 transactions worth 132,000 crore rupees.

The 75-page report released simultaneously in Bombay and New Delhi today put the total money exposed to the scam at 4,024.45 crore rupees. It said there was fairly consistent pattern of irregularities in most of the banks. Observing that the corporate sector, particularly the public sector, was the main source of funds, the report said portfolio management and related schemes were used to play with funds circumventing the RBI regulations. The committee, however, admitted its failure to determine the ultimate disposal of funds owing to limitation of its inquiry.

The committee criticized the RBI's inspection system for not giving sufficient importance to the treasury functions of banks. It recommended a ban on all ready forward transactions till adequate safeguards are formulated and suggested the creation of a central depository for all securities. The committee also recommended

coordinated efforts by investigating agencies to find out the scam money [sentence as heard].

New Cases Filed in Security Scam

BK0905125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The Income Tax Department has set up a separate cell to monitor the dealings of nearly 2,000 stockbrokers in the country. The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has already filed several new cases in connection with the security scandal. The chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee probing the security scam, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, said in New Delhi today that CBI had earlier filed 12 scam-related cases. The new cases are said to be against certain bank officials for their criminal complicity in the matter.

Rao: LTTE in Tamil Nadu Should be Curbed

BK0705161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has said that the activities of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Tamil Nadu should be curbed. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao was talking to newsmen at Madras Airport this evening after attending the centenary celebrations of the Paramacharya [chief religious head] of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham [a Hindu religious body]. The prime minister denied the charge of the state chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, that the center is trying to topple her government. Referring to yesterday's attack on the Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the attack on such senior leaders deserves outright condemnation.

Nepalese King Departs for Madras

BK0805152093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The King of Nepal, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, has left New Delhi for Madras. The king, who is on a seven-day state visit to the country, told newsmen that the friendly relations between India and Nepal will be further strengthened with his visit. The royal couple will visit religious places in Tamil Nadu and Orissa before leaving for Kathmandu. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and his Cabinet colleagues were among those present in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] at the departure ceremony.

Sri Lankan Tamils Escape From Special Camps

BK0905155293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, seven Sri Lankan Tamils lodged in special camps have escaped from custody in two different incidents. Five Sri Lankan Tamils arrested for not having proper passports escaped yesterday by climbing the wall at Kancheepuram special camps. In the other incident, two Sri Lankan refugees escaped from the Melur special camp early this morning.

Bangladesh Tribal Refugee Talks Begin

BK0905034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] India and Bangladesh yesterday discussed the [Bangladesh tribal] Chakma refugee issue in Agartala. While the Bangladesh delegation was led by the minister of communications, Mr. Oli Ahmed, the Indian delegation was represented by the union minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid.

The Tripura chief minister, Mr. Darshath Deb, said Chakma refugees are keen to go back to the land of origin. The visiting leader, Mr. Oli Ahmed, said his country is keen to solve the Chakma problem. He assured that the refugees would be welcomed on their return.

Tanzanian President Begins Week-Long Visit

BK1005051493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The Tanzanian president, Mr. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a week's official visit to India. He was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] in the presence of the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The others present on the occasion included the three service chiefs, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi P.K. Dave, the members of the Union Cabinet and diplomats.

Talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the visiting dignitary hoped that his visit will strengthen the relations between Tanzania and India. He said India has been a long-term partner in the Tanzania's economic development. Mr. Mwinyi expressed the hope that his visit, the first since he took over in 1985, will further strengthen bilateral cooperation. He said that he looks forward to meeting the Indian leaders to discuss how to strengthen these ties further.

During his stay in the capital, the Tanzanian president will meet the president, the vice president, and the prime minister. Increased cooperation in trade, technical, and cultural fields with Tanzania is expected to figure during the discussions. He will also visit Bombay and Bangalore. Tanzania is one of India's largest trading partners in Africa. Exports to that country increased three-fold in the last two years. Tanzania is also largest beneficiary of India's contributions to the Africa Fund.

Army Eastern Commander Dies in Helicopter Crash

BK0705124493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The general officer commanding in chief of the Eastern Command [as heard], Lieutenant General

Jameel Mahmood, his wife, and seven other defense personnel were killed in a helicopter crash in Bhutan this morning. According to a Defense Ministry spokesman in New Delhi, helicopter in which they were flying crashed shortly after it took off at Ha in Bhutan. Lieutenant General Jameel was on an official visit to Bhutan. There were no survivors in the crash. Those who were killed include a crew of four personnel of the Indian Air Force. According to the spokesman all bodies have been identified. A court of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

Parliament Gives Nod to UK Extradition Pact

BK0705162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Parliament has passed the code of criminal procedure amendment bill 1993. It provides for transfer of persons involved in terrorist activities for assisting investigation and enforcement of attachment and forfeiture orders in respect of properties as issued by court in the other country. The Lok Sabha passed the bill today unanimously. The Rajya Sabha had passed the said bill on the 28th of last month.

Replying to the discussion, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that the bill will give full effect to the agreements signed with Britain and Northern Ireland for the purpose. He said efforts will be made to enter into such agreements with other countries also.

Police Unearth Plot To Kill Kashmir Governor

BK0805092493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have unearthed a militant plot to kill the governor and several other political leaders with an aim to thwart any move to start any political process in the state. A hard-core militant, Shakil Hussain, arrested by the Jammu police this week revealed this during his interrogation. He said some militants have been assigned the task to be executed at a suitable time and place in Jammu region. The arrested militant disclosed that high financial awards have been promised to the militants engaged for this task.

Official: 'Most' of Kashmir Militants Eliminated

BK1005034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The director general of the Border Security Force, Mr. T. Anantachari, says that militancy in Kashmir valley has suffered a major setback with the elimination of most of the hardcore militants. He was talking to our Jammu correspondent after touring the valley. Mr. Anantachari denied the allegations of excesses by the security forces and said these charges by human right activists and others were motivated and came at a juncture when the morale of the militants was at the lowest. He said the security forces battle is against militancy and not against the people.

Nagaland 'Extremists' Ambush Soldiers, 5 Killed

BK0805031093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] In Nagaland, five Assam Rifles jawans [soldiers] were killed and several others seriously injured in an ambush by an extremist group at Dighu on Wednesday. A joint combing operation by the police and paramilitary forces is on to nab the culprits.

Tamil Nadu, Kerala By-Elections Postponed

BK0805140093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The Election Commission has postponed byelections to the Lok Sabha from Palani in Tamil Nadu and Ottappalam in Kerala. According to a press release issued by the commission, the election, which was scheduled for the 19th of this month, will now be held on the 19th of August. It said the election in Palani has been deferred because of the severe drought in the constituency, while in Ottapalam it has been delayed because of the law and order situation.

Manipur Situation Reported 'Improving'

BK0805152493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] In Manipur, two armed youths were killed in an encounter with the police in Imphal today. According to the superintendent of police of Imphal, one pistol, one hand grenade, and some rounds of ammunition were recovered from the encounter site.

Meanwhile, the situation in the violence-affected areas of three districts of the state is fast improving. The state chief secretary, Mr. H.V. Goswami, told our Imphal correspondent that in view of this, the day curfew has been lifted. Night curfew will continue as a precaution. Long distance buses plied during the curfew relaxation today and several shops and business establishments in Imphal were open.

'Third Front' Sought Against BJP, Congress-I

BK0905154193 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 26 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Apr.—All the main opposition parties who earlier split at the national level have now begun efforts to form a third front against the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the Congress-I. The parties—the Janata Dal (Ajit Singh), the Janata Dal (V.P. Singh), the Samajwadi Janata Party (Chandra Shekhar) and the Samajwadi Party (Mulayam Singh Yadav)—that split from the Janata Party and became independent have initiated steps to form this new front and have begun talks. It is understood that the left front and Telugu Desam have decided to extend their support from outside, in case the new front comes into being.

Leaders who are making efforts to form the new front—Biju Patnaik, Ramakrishna Hegde, Kansiram, Ajit Singh, and Chandra Shekhar—are also taking steps to revive the Janata Party on a trial basis.

There is also a general feeling that anytime the talks to form a third front may collapse on certain key issues as to who should be appointed leader of the front and who should be appointed chief minister of Gujarat, a position which can effect major changes during the general elections.

Some leading figures in the Janata Dal are opposing the formation of any new front. They are apprehensive about only one person, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy. The reason for their apprehension is that Subramaniam Swamy alone will benefit from the new front. When the front is formed, he will drag all key figures to his side and will start issuing orders to others. Hence, some opposition has emerged to Subramanian Swamy himself. Another matter of concern is that the leaders participating at the talks are pessimistic and are expressing contradictory views. For instance, Ajit Singh, Mulayam Singh Yadav, and Kansiram have been negotiating with the Narasimha Rao government while the talks have been going on to form the front. It is understood that three important decisions have been taken at the talks being held to form a new front. They are:

1. To oppose the BJP for its political ideologies and the Congress-I for its economic policies.

2. To make seat adjustments in the upcoming byelections and the assembly elections in the four BJP-ruled states.

3. To merge other opposition parties with the front to be formed and strengthen it.

While all the main opposition parties are making frantic efforts to form a new front, only the Congress-I has remained unconcerned about it. But in an interview to an international television network, Congress-I Leader V.C. Shukla said we welcome any move by the opposition parties to defeat the BJP.

Banned Muslim Group Head Sets Up New Party

BK0805095893 Madrs DINAMALAR in Tamil 17 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Cochin, 17 Apr.—Madani, the leader of the banned Muslim communal organization, has launched a new political party in Kerala. After the Ayodhya incidents, the Muslim communal organization, ISS [Islamic Seva Sangh], was banned. Its leader Madani went underground. After a few days, he surrendered to the police and came out on bail. He announced that he would work for the minorities, downtrodden, and socially backward people. In this context, he launched the People's Democratic Party in Cochin yesterday. After launching the party, he told newsmen:

The new party has been launched for the welfare of minorities, the downtrodden, and socially backward people. The meeting of the representatives of minorities and socially backward people was held in Cochin the day before yesterday and a decision was made to launch this party. The meeting was attended by, among others, some interested people without party affiliation and some people from some organizations. Congress-I and other parties have failed to protect socially backward people, including the Muslims. Therefore, it is imperative to launch a party in the country. Steps will be taken to open branches of this party in various parts of the country within six months. After some time, an important national-level political leader will lead the party.

When the ISS was launched, Ibrahim Sulaiman Seth, the leader of the Indian Union Muslim League, was very helpful in its growth. He was also consulted on the launching of the new party. But, we cannot say anything about his support to the new party. Nor can we say anything about reviving the ISS. Now, four vice presidents, seven general secretaries, and nine executive committee members have been appointed.

The executive committee will decide about fielding a candidate for the byelections to the Ottappalam Constituency in Kerala.

Missile Development Pace Examined

BK0705125193 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, 25 April (BHASHA)—The development and production of the most modern missiles being undertaken by Indian defense scientists have reached the last stage and the Indian Armed Forces will start receiving these missiles by the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

The development of long range surface-to-surface Agni [Fire], medium range surface-to-surface Prithvi [Earth], long range surface-to-air Akash [Sky], quick reaction surface-to-air Trishul [Trident] and antitank Nag [Cobra] missiles, which are now in the last stage, has put India on the list of five countries who have similar techniques. Thus, India has become one of the few elite countries capable of developing such missiles.

Defense observers believe that the introduction of medium range surface-to-surface Prithvi missiles in the Armed Forces will lead to a remarkable increase in Indian military power. Both Pakistan and China bordering India have missiles that can strike at very long range. Pakistan possesses missiles that have a range of more than 250 km, while China is more advanced in this field. It possesses intercontinental ballistic missiles with a capability of striking targets many thousands of km away.

According to sources, the flaws detected during the second trial of the long range surface-to-surface Agni missile last May have been closely studied by the defense scientists and they have succeeded in eliminating all the problems. According to these sources all preparations

regarding the next test flight of Agni have been nearly completed and it can take place any time now.

A very big, and and the most significant, achievement of the defense scientists is the surface-to-air missile Akash which has so far been tested four times. Its last test flight was conducted on 20 December last year in which a 'self-propelled launcher' was used for the first time. The Akash missile resembles the U.S. Patriot missile but defense scientists claim that in some respects it is even better and more sophisticated than the Patriot. That is why U.S. scientists are also eyeing the Akash.

The development of the short range surface-to-air Trishul missile is also in the last stage. It was successfully tested recently. So far four trial tests have been conducted on Trishul which have been very successful.

The antitank Nag missile has also reached the last stage of development. This third generation missile is capable of accurately hitting the enemy's tanks at a distance of five km. Until now, the Indian Army was dependent on French Milan antitank missiles. Milan is being produced in the country, but it is a second generation missile. Nag has been successfully tested many times and suggestions made by the Army during its trial have been incorporated in it to a large extent.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Station Goes On-Line

BK0805135893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] In Gujarat, the first 220 mw unit of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station has become commercial. Located 80 km east of Surat, the unit achieved criticality in September last year and synchronized with the grid two months later. An announcement by the Nuclear Power Corporation in New Delhi says that this is an important landmark as it signifies the maturing of indigenous technology for nuclear power in the country. The unit joined the group of eight other operating reactors, increasing the installed nuclear power generation capacity to 1720 mw. The second unit of the Kakrapar project is expected to commence power generation early next year. Certain features have been improved in the Kakrapar atomic power station, meeting the prevalent technological standards.

Atomic Energy Department Criticized for Delays

BK0805082693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The comptroller and auditor general, CAG, has criticized the Department of Atomic Energy for cost overruns and indefinite delays in the fast breeder test reactor program. In a report laid in parliament yesterday, the CAG says although the fast breeder test reactor was expected to be commissioned by 1976 at a cost of 34 crore rupees, the expenditure had gone up to 91 crore rupees by March 1992.

Commentary Views 'Thorium-Based' Nuclear Plant

BK0905051093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 May 93

[Commentary by defense analyst Uday Bhaskar]

[Text] The Kakrapar atomic power station was declared commercial yesterday and is now connected with the western power grid. This is an important landmark and is yet another small but significant indicator of India's overall technological capability. The arrival of Kakrapar on the national grid is also a realization of the late Dr. Bhabha's cherished dream as regards the use of thorium in India's nuclear power program. As early as 1957, Dr. Bhabha drew attention to the 500,000 [metric] tons of thorium reserves that India had and envisaged the use of this element in the national nuclear program as a step toward attainment of self-sufficiency in nuclear fuels. However, at that stage this was still difficult proposition. But today, after almost 36 years India has made a breakthrough in the use of thorium in power reactors. Briefly stated, thorium cannot be used as a fuel till it is irradiated in a reactor to produce sufficient quantities of uranium which can then be used as a reactor fuel. For this purpose, special reactors called breeder reactors are needed where the thorium is used as a blanket around the core of the reactor. These reactors use a fast neutron spectrum in which more fuel is produced than actually burnt due to the presence of thorium and over a period of time a level of self-sufficiency in nuclear fuel is attained. Thus, at one level, Kakrapar, which uses thorium bundles along with the natural uranium fuel, represents the successful realization of a long-term objective of the Indian atomic energy program.

Another indicator of the significance of Kakrapar is the relationship between energy and national growth. It has been irrefutably established that the per capita energy consumption and energy growth rates of a nation are directly related to national economic growth. According to World Bank figures, India's per capita energy consumption in kilograms of oil equivalent was 100 units in 1965 and this increased to 231 units in 1990. Energy growth rate for the same periods was 5.6 percent and 7 percent respectively. There is no doubt that if the results of the economic liberalization are to fructify, India will need an effective economic and environmentally viable energy program. With Kakrapar going commercial, India becomes the only nation in the world to use thorium in an atomic power plant and this is a welcome development, both in terms of attaining self-sufficiency in reactor fuel and increasing the nuclear power share on the national energy scene.

Army: Locally Developed Artillery Radar Useless

BK0805032093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The report of the comptroller and auditor general for 1992-93 says the growth rate in the production value

of ordnance factories has come down. However, there has been a steady increase in the value of fixed capital assets. The report presented to the Lok Sabha pointed out that an artillery radar developed at a cost of 2.9 crore rupees by a public sector undertaking had no use to the Army as its performance was not satisfactory.

Two Space Launches Planned for Current Year

BK0905093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The Indian Space Research Organization has planned two major launches this year. They are the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, and the INSAT-2B. Official sources in Bangalore say the different stages of PSLV capable of placing 1,000-kg satellites into a 900-km polar sunsynchronous orbit have been individually tested and flight systems are being integrated for the launch from the Sriharikota launching pad in June-July.

The INSAT-2B, likely to be launched during the last quarter of this year on board the Ariane Launch Vehicle, is now under integration and testing. The satellite is to be launched from Kourou, French Guiana. Meanwhile, the monitoring station at Mauritius has been augmented with an S-band uplink with a 10-m diameter antenna. A precision-coherent, monopulse C-band radar system has been installed to meet the telemetry, tracking, and command requirements for the PSLV.

Development, Use of Cryogenic Engines Noted

BK0805121793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 8 May 93

[Commentary by R.D. Kushal, Editor of WORLD SCIENCE NEWS]

[Text] India has achieved impressive successes in various space missions like launching of ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] and INSAT 2-A in 1992. The data obtained from various Indian remote sensing satellites are being used for integrated mission for sustainable development. In the field of development of indigenous launch capability, India has developed advanced technologies needed for Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle—PSLV—and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle—GSLV—such as strap-on technology, closed loop guidance system, bulbous metallic heat shield, onboard Real Time Decision—RTD—systems et cetera.

According to Professor U.R. Rao, Chairman of Space Commission, all 200 launch vehicle design options were studied in detail to evolve an optimal GSLV launch design which can meet 2.5 tons payload requirement in the Geostationary Transfer Orbit—GTO—consistent with rain safety, mission constraints, use of proven PSLV nodules at the maximum for cost effectivenesss, and reliability, and built- in growth potential. The finally chosen GSLV design is a three- stage vehicle, the core being a 125 ton solid booster as in PSLV with four liquid strap-on's of Vikas engine, each with a propellent loading of 40 tons. The second stage of GSLV is the Vikas liquid propulsion system as in PSLV and the last upper stage a 12-ton restartable cryogenic engine which uses liquid hydrogen. Excepting for the addition of a new cryo-stage, the first two stages fully exploit PSLV pedigree. With just three stages, GSLV should prove to be world class launch vehicle in terms of reliability, cost competitiveness, and payload traction.

Cryotechnology is highly sophisticated and has taken almost 15 years for development even in advanced nations such as the USA, USSR, Japan, and France. While purely indigenous efforts would have taken a longer period, it was decided to collaborate with Russia in the development of the above cryoengine with an understanding that Russia will deliver two fully qualified cryo-stage, meeting all our specifications by 1995 and will also transfer the technology process to enable us to build required number of cryo-stages within the country itself from 1996 onwards. The operation sequence of cryo- stage, the logarithm, and floor diagrams have been prepared. Necessary inputs have been generated for the assembly and integration facility to be planned at Mahendragiri. Fabrication drawings for various subassemblies are being analyzed. Specifications for test (?stands) for cryo-main engine, steering engine, and subsystem have been finalized. The instrumentation requirement for the Integrated Liquid Hydrogen Plant—ILHP—have been worked out. Equipment, materials, and storage cum transportation tankers have been received and the erection of ILHP has started. For the indigenous development of cryogenic engine, subscale engines have been realized. Two types of regeneratively cool engines have been designed and realized. The cavitating venturies have been realized and caliberated. The specifications of the C-12 cryogenic engine have been generated and the configuration of the engine has been finalized. The design of the gas generator for C-12 cyrogenic engine has been completed. In order to optimise the injector design, a series of experiments have been carried out to determine various parameters and suitable modifications made to arrive at a satisfactory geometry. Thus, India has shown that the capability of space technology can be used in transforming stagnant societies effectively with less per capita investment in the people of India. It is being used for educational programs even in rural areas apart from using it for telecommunication, metereology, mapping of forest areas, and various land uses et cetera.

Petroleum Gas Production Increased

BK0905095493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The LPG [Liquefied Petroleum Gas] production during the last financial year increased to 347,950 [metric] tons, about 130,000 tons more than the previous year. The public sector Gas Authority of India has also earned 128 percent profit more than the previous year. It has also achieved a major technological breakthrough in

indigenous pipeline engineering, commissioning a 300-km pipeline during the year at an estimated cost of 140 crore rupees. The Gas Authority of India has also entered into collaboration with gas companies of Canada, USA, and Japan.

Navy Gets 5 Indigenous Dornier Cobra Aircraft

BK0705113193 Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Goa, April 27—The premier naval air station in the country INS [Indian Naval Ship] Hansa will acquire five more Dornier Cobra aircraft being built indigenously, according to flag officer naval aviation, Rear Admiral P.A. Debrass.

Speaking to a group of visiting journalists at the picturesque former Portuguese airfield at Dabolim where INS Hansa is situated, the rear admiral said yesterday that five aircraft had been acquired in the last six months to replace the anti-submarine reconnaisance and strike aircraft the "Alizes," which were phased out in 1991, after a long and honoured stint with the air wing of the Indian Navy.

He said the air station with its wide variety of complex aircraft performing a range of functions was the country's largest military airbase. The air power of the Indian Navy was unique in the region and thus gave an edge over the neighbours, he said adding that the Indian Air Force had also committed Jaguars and Mirage 2000s to maritime strike in times of war.

The aircraft squadrons situated at INS Hansa were the White Tigers or the Sea Harriers, the winged stallions or the Soviet built IL-38, and the Bear-F or the TU-142M which discharge the twin role of long range maritime reconnaisance and anti-submarine warfare (ASW), the Angels helicopters which conduct search and rescue operations and the Eagles or Kamov 25 and Kamov 28, the ASW advanced helicopters. The TU 142, with their airborne sensor systems, had provided a shot in the arm for blue water capability of the Indian Navy.

INS Hansa also had training facilities for fighter pilots through the Kiran HJT-16 jets and the Sea Harrier simulator, the pride of the station, which creates the complete flight spectrum of the sophisticated aircraft.

Rear Admiral Debrass said with the induction of the IL-38 and the TU-142 the eyes and ears of the navy had extended to thousands of miles across the seas.

Rear Admiral Debrass said the air station faced problems of spares with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union but the indigenisation efforts in the country were helping to tide over the problems.

Rear Admiral Debrass said spares for Russian built planes were being manufactured at Nashik while parts of air frames were being built at Bangalore. Electronic equipment used in the aircraft were manufactured at Hyderabad. Recently Mr. Abdul Kalam, the scientific advisor to the prime minister had complimented the Indian Navy for giving maximum projects to the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the rear admiral said.

Foreign Currency Accounts Interest Rates Revised

BK0805151293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The Reserve Bank of India [RBI] has announced changes in the interest rate structure for deposits under the Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account scheme. An RBI release issued in Bombay today says the interest rates for the pound sterling deposits have been increased by 0.25 percent for maturity period of one year and above but less than two years and by 0.50 percent for periods of two years and above. The interest rates for the U.S. dollar deposits have been reduced by 0.25 percent for periods of two years and above.

Iran

Swiss Sentenced to Three Years' Imprisonment

LD0905155893 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Swiss national Hans Bohler has been sentenced by Tehran's military court to three years in prison for "unauthorized contacts" with some militarymen and complicity in disclosing some classified information.

The Armed Forces judicial organization announced today that other accused people arrested in this connection have been sentenced by the court but it did not disclose their number nor the duration of their prison terms.

Hans Bohler was arrested in March 1992 on charges of establishing contacts with some military personnel and since then has been kept in custody.

Turkish Ambassador Views Relations

NC0905161793 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 22 Apr 93 p 9

["Exclusive" interview with Korumaz Haktanir, Turkish ambassador to Iran and head of the Economic Cooperation Organization's Representation Council, in Tehran by unidentified HAMSHAHRI correspondent—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [HAMSHAHRI] How do you view the chances of broadening Iranian-Turkish relations?

[Haktanir] During Turgut Ozal's visit to Tehran last year and his meetings with high-level Iranian officials, the trend of relations between the two countries was specified. For the first time a protocol was signed for cultural exchanges over a period of two years. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] How much commercial and economic trade is there between the two countries?

[Haktanir] The level of trade between the two countries in the current year has reached $800 million, which represents a 40-percent increase over last year. In the past few years the volume of trade between the two countries dropped but it is now rising again.

Economic issues should not be overshadowed by political issues and should not allow them to affect mutual relations, as reviving those relations then becomes difficult. The Cape Maleas incident with its concomitant political repercussions hurt our economic relations. Ever since, efforts have been initiated to eliminate the problem and it has become clear that the issue will be resolved eventually.

Developments in economic issues have transcended relations between governments and have progressed to the private sector in both countries. Economic relations do not only include commercial issues and I am optimistic that this year there will be more progress in durable ties between our two neighboring countries in various fields such as the power grid, gas, and oil pipelines. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] What decisions were made during the recent three- day session of our security committees in Tehran?

[Haktanir] We decided to jointly combat terrorist and subversive activities by opposing groups. During this session, in addition to exchanging information, we followed up the problems of the two sides. This trend can continue with mutual goodwill. In the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] last year, when the Turkish interior minister visited Tehran, it was decided that security committees should initiate their activities. The next session will be convened in Turkey in Ordibehesht [21 April-20 May] this year and probably at this session, an agreement will be reached regarding the establishment of a high-level committee and the activities of the security committees in the past few months will be reviewed. We attach immense importance to these committees and to our continued cooperation.

[HAMSHAHRI] Has the murderer of journalist Ugur Mumcu been arrested? This incident has been a constant source of frigidity in relations between Tehran and Ankara. Claims of a link to Iran by some Turkish officials strained relations even further. What do you have to say about this?

[Haktanir] A group of persons accused of murdering two Turkish journalists, Cetin Omec and Turan Tosun, who were killed before Mumcu, have been arrested. The tribunal has called for their bill of indictment and soon a court session will be held for their trial. Following the confessions of the arrested we requested that Iran cooperate with us, and subsequently a joint security commission was created. [passage omitted]

Libyan Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD0905093693 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar Ahmad al-Muntasir heading a high-ranking delegation arrived here Sunday.

Al-Muntasir is carrying a message from the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During his stay here, the Libyan minister will exchange views with Foreign Ministry officials on regional and international issues aso well as matters of mutual interest.

The Libyan official and his entourage were received at Mehrabad airport by First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Meets President, Views Islamic Issues

LD1005121793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa al-Muntasir this morning. According to a Central News Unit report at the meeting, while expressing happiness with the friendly ties between Iran and Libya, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the importance of deepening mutual ties based on the common stances of the two countries. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the hegemonistic aims of arrogant countries in exerting pressure on revolutionary countries to weaken their revolutionary stands. He criticized the lack of appropriate utilization of the existing potentials and resources in Islamic countries to combat the pressure.

He added [announcer-read]: Most of the time of the various conferences and organizations in Islamic countries is spent on peripheral and minor issues. Serious decisions should be made about major issues, such as Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and generally combatting the influence of colonialists in those countries.

Finally, while expressing certainty that enemy plots would be foiled if resistance is put up against the pressure, Hashemi- Rafsanjani said that the awakening of nations in Islamic countries would promise their release from the rule of colonialists.

At the meeting the Libyan foreign minister conveyed a verbal message from Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to the president and submitted a report on his talks in Southeast Asian countries. He briefed the president on those countries' views on the developments in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other Islamic issues. He also expressed the hope that a joint cooperation committee between Iran and Libya would be set up as soon as possible.

Velayati Departs for Nonaligned Meeting 8 May

LD0805084393 Tehran IRNA in English 0731 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for the Indonesian island of Bali to participate in the 2nd foreign ministerial meeting of the Permanent Economic Cooperation Committee of the Non-aligned countries Saturday. The week-long tour will take Velayati, who is heading a high-ranking political delegation, also to Malaysia and Brunei.

The meeting will discuss the economic cooperations among the committee member states, the resumption of North-South talks, consolidation of South-South cooperation and the role the United Nations plays in international development cooperation.

Kuwaiti Envoy, Majles Speaker on Ties

LD0805160993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] At a meeting with Majles Speaker Ahmad Nateq-Nuri today, Fawzi al-Jasim, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Tehran, expressed satisfaction at the expanding trend of ties between Iran and Kuwait, and called for the further activation of parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Announcing the readiness of his country's government to expand ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields, including sports, commerce, and advertising, he described the settlement of regional issues by regional states as the official stance of the Government of Kuwait on regional problems.

The Majles speaker, expressing satisfaction at the expanding bilateral ties, emphasized the importance of such ties at parliamentary level. He called for the formation of parliamentary friendship groups between the two countries.

He stated that the safeguarding of the territorial integrity of states and the settlement of regional disputes in the region itself is a policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He pointed out: The Islamic Republic of Iran has never posed a threat to regional states and will never be a threat to them. He expressed the belief that the propaganda put out by world arrogance in this regard is merely designed to create an atmosphere of concern and unrest and consequently to enable world arrogance to sell its arms.

Khomeyni Criticizes U.S. Treatment of Delegate

LD0905104093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a sign of the height of Westerners' brutality and of those who falsely claim to support human rights. This tremendous crime has pushed aside forever the mask of deceit from the heinous face of Western arrogance.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, making this statement today, referred to the claims of Western governments regarding freedom and human rights and their accusations against Iran. He stressed: Despite such claims, Westerners are responsible for the current terrible massacre in Bosnia-Herzegovina and within their communities fail to tolerate Muslim women in Islamic dress.

On the contrary, he continued, we accept freedom within the mold of the lofty laws of Islam and we defend it truly. But we do not accept the freedom sought by Westerners, which encompasses promiscuity and the destruction of family foundations and human grace.

Referring also to American officials' inhuman behavior toward a member of the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic delegation—who had traveled to that country to participate in an international economic gathering—he pointed out: By its blatant violation of international law and the political immunity of other states, America has made international forums insecure. This is a clear sign of the negation of Washington's authority to hold those international forums on American soil.

Meshkini Assails U.S. in Qom Sermon

LD0705191893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1427 GMT 7 May 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 7 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are many and various issues which should be discussed in detail. I have decided to keep both sermons as short as possible. I will say a few words on some current issues, which I have noted separately.

America calls Iran a terrorist, a supporter of terrorists, and accuses it of interfering in other countries' affairs, acquiring modern weapons, seeking to acquire nuclear and chemical weapons, and in general, of posing a great danger to the security of the world. It presumes that we are something like that. If that is the way it is supposed to be, may God indeed make us just that where America is concerned.

Such accusations from the country, from the America which carried out all those crimes in Vietnam, turned the entire soil of a country to ashes by fire and other agents; made a direct attack against Libya, contrary to the law; gave billions of dollars in financial aid to the criminal, terrorist Israel; struck down the airliner with 290 innocent passengers: children, women, old men and drowned them in the sea. That's what it did! A person who, in this fashion [sentence as heard]. And so on—you have heard more about these things than we have. From such a country, accusations like these are not acceptable.

Let me tell the listeners the extent of America's accusations in a few sentences. It put Iraq on the list of terrorists before Iraq fought against Iran. It was among

the terrorists. Iraq started a war with Iran, and America erased Iraq's name from the list of terrorists. After the Iran-Iraq War, Saddam once again opposed America; Iraq's name was once more added to the list of terrorists. Now, Iraq's name has once more been taken off the list. So it becomes clear that to be a terrorist is to behave contrary to the wishes of America. That is the logic of it. [Crowd chants: Death to America]

God willing. We hope God accepts your slogans.

Once again a most severe clash has occurred in Afghanistan and left many dead and injured. The Government and nation of Iran give the leaders of Afghanistan this piece of advice: do not be a slave to your carnal desires [hava-ye nafs] to such an extent. O, gentlemen, do not sacrifice the tyrannizd, Soviet-stricken nation—which has given many dead and captives and has fought for 14 years—to your indulgences [havasbaziha]. Live in harmony with each other and think about the reconstruction of the country, so that, God willing, the reconstruction may come about.

America, contrary to international law, detained one of Iran's official delegates, who had gone to participate in the IMF discussions, and later deported him. Against the laws of all nations! America is condemned in the eyes of all those who respect the law. [passage omitted]

I have a short matter for our government which I will tell you about. We need the government and if this government did not exist we would have to choose another one. How can there be a nation without a government? We do not regret electing the president, the government, and our Majles deputies. They should know this. We accept them. We offer them our devotion [eradat] as well. But there will be no contradiction either if we pay them another kind of devotion.

We accept the president, the government, and the Majles deputies, and so on. The government programs are not to the nation's disadvantage either: we do not consider the five-year and 10-year plans to be to the disadvantage of the nation either. There is, however, a point that I have reiterated many times and the I will repeat. Gentlemen, honorable government: In your work please consider the nation's deprived a little more. This month a man pays 1,000 tumans for water; next month this suddenly becomes 10,000 tumans. Chemical fertilizer prices have suddenly gone up 30-fold. The government then kindly reduces that price by 15 times, but the price is still 15 times what it was. Gentlemen who are sitting up there, I beg of you: first use a step-by-step policy. Second: think about a way to compensate the needy and enact it soon.

Let me tell this to my nation as well; to the brethren and sisters, whose presence I am proud to be in and to whom I am proud to be talking, I stand proud that I am talking to the Hezbollah believers. Let me tell this to the nation. Your government does not wish you ill. You should know that. It is compassionate as well, we are sure. But this country needs an economic surgical operation so that the body of the country becomes sound for the next generation. This must be. My word to the government is this: they should carry out the operation properly with a pain killer. [passage omitted]

U.S. Actions in Somalia 'Failure'

NC0805152493 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 1 May 93 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "The United States—Defeat in the Experiment in Somalia"]

[Excerpts] With great fanfare and propagandistic clamor, the United States sent its troops into Somalia and after five months withdrew them from there rather unobtrusively, handing over the military control of the Somali capital and other sensitive areas of this country to UN peacekeeping forces.

The real pretext as well as the propagandistic reason for the U.S. military presence in Somalia during the last days of Bush's tenure in office was to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to the famine-stricken population of the country. This was accompanied by much hue and cry by the Western mass media. Now, after five months it has transpired that this hue and cry was futile and there was no remarkable changes in the dispatch of humanitarian assistance to the famine victims. We currently see very few reports in the U.S. media regarding the condition of the Somali famine victims. From the outset, the U.S. objectives were:

1. To overshadow the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina as the defensive attitude of the United States on the one hand and the anti-human massacre by the Serbs on the other had greatly affected the international image of the United States and the international community and world public opinion were raising such questions as: Why is the United States—which professes to be a champion of human rights—silent on the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina? The U.S. presence in Somalia which was accompanied by much fanfare provided a pretext for the U.S. mass media to flaunt U.S. humanitarian policies and to mitigate the pressure of public opinion on the U.S. Government.

2. Another very important issue was the U.S. internal situation. With the end of their term approaching, the Republicans deliberately tried to create problems for the Clinton administration—which was quite inexperienced in such issues—and this can be interpreted as a sort of internal rivalry on the part of the Republicans.

3. The third reason was that the dazzling and extensive proliferation of Islamic movements in northern Africa as well as the situation in Egypt and Algeria generated much apprehension among Western governments, especially the United States. The possibility of fast-paced developments in the area resulted in the U.S. action so as to gain a foothold in the event of a crisis situation cropping up. The strategic situation in Somalia

prompted the United States to deploy its military presence in that country and in practice to inspire confidence among the pro-Western governments of the region.

4. The action could also be considered a precalculated plan for the future to generate the impression that it is normal for the United States to take military action in crises and in sensitive situations. However the Somali experiment proved that international sensitivity is not so tepid that the United States and other colonialist powers can reap benefits for their policies from such actions whenever necessary.

Today, after five months we can consider the U.S. experiment in Somalia a defeat and this is what has motivated the United States to leave Somalia unobtrusively, before any acute problems were encountered.

The U.S. forces had anticipated a better reception, in view of the distinctive conditions prevailing in Somalia, but the indignant behavior of the Somalis created problems for the Americans. During the five months of their stay, the Americans encountered extensive resistance from the people. By displaying their resistance, the Somali people added to the anxiety of the country's politicians.

The widespread clashes between the popular forces, even civilians, and the U.S. troops were not reflected frequently in the international mass media, and the U.S. press strove to avoid such reports. The number of U.S. soldiers who were attacked, and as a result killed or and wounded, is greater than the casualties suffered by the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf war. Despite having extensive advanced resources the U.S. troops did not feel safe before the fury of the Somali people, and their harsh and nervous reaction in their checking of cities, homes, and attacks on the ordinary people is indicative of this fact.

Now that the Americans have tasted the bitterness of defeat and departed from Somali soil, they are attempting to project that the situation in Somalia has returned to normal and that there is no further need for U.S. soldiers. [passage omitted]

We can succinctly sum up the situation by saying that contrary to other interventionist adventures of the United States in other crisis-ridden regions of the world, the U.S. military presence in Somalia has been unsuccessful and a complete failure. In order to prevent any fallout, the United States sought to make a low-key departure from Somalia without any accompanying propaganda.

'Ethnic Fanaticism' Concern in Former USSR

NC0905194393 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Apr 93 p 16

[Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "Developments in Moscow"]

[Text] 1. For the West, Moscow continues to pose a potential threat. Russia is both huge in size and also has extensive resources; once it pulls itself together, it will definitely and immediately demand to regain the role that it played in areas that were within the realm of domination of the Socialist camp, including in the republics! Moscow's behavior toward the republics is such that it overtly shows that the borders of the former Soviet Union continue to be "the applicable" borders in Russia's foreign policy. Therefore, the West wants Russia to shrink both in size and in resources. Both Russia's human resources and its potential are being threatened. Its active manpower is fleeing the motherland and it will only be a matter of years before it loses its resources and potential.

2. In the past Russia always grew under a dictatorship and a centralized system! This is yet another reason why in the West's view the "extremists" should not be allowed to gain power. Thus we realize why the United States was so worried over Yeltsin's downfall and why it is so happy now and is encouraging Yeltsin in his so-called "bold" efforts.

The current political conflicts and the outcome of the elections have paved the ground both for Russia's dismemberment and its irreparable backwardness in industry and science. This can actually be considered the final phase in the disintegration of the Soviet empire.

3. Even though the impact of this situation is favorable for the West, nevertheless the impact is extremely significant and sensitive for the region, for a major part of Asia and Europe, and finally, for world peace.

The republics, like satellites out of orbit, are in an "uncontrollable" situation and they have instigated many racial illusions and political ambitions. Some are entertaining dreams of establishing a rule extending from the Black Sea to the borders of China on the basis of a (fictitious) [as published] race, while others are trying to exploit a geographic basis for the solution of their problems and conflicts. And further dismemberment of the Soviet Union will only exacerbate this phenomenon, nothing more! The continuation of the current process paints a disturbing picture of the region's future: The 21st century will be like a sizzling furnace of conflicts of millions of human beings burning in the fire of ignorant ethnic fanaticism, of assaults to gain more resources and for continued existence, and of efforts to realize imaginary ideals in the vast region extending from Asia to Europe.

4. The West has started to move in this direction. Policies on limiting economic ties and contacts, the rejection of immigrants, and the building of financial and monetary fences are all aimed at creating a security shield against such a sociopolitical volcano.

Naturally, in this midst some newly emerged countries can come out intact (or more intact) from all this—those who did not waste any time and tried to establish a popular-based government and immediately attempted to use their resources and existing potential. The last years of the 20th century will determine the destiny of

these countries because the more investments they gain and the more success they achieve in this period as far as building the basic structure for their rule is concerned, the healthier they will be in the future. And the more they are able to establish relations with the outside world, the more stable they will be. This is a point that should serve as an example to republics like Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Tajikistan.

Iran Shells Iraqi Kurdistan 6 May

NC0905071793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] According to a report received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, the Islamic Republic's regime at 0930 [0500 GMT] on 6 May conducted an artillery attack on border areas in Iraqi Kurdistan's Shiwashan Valley, which continued for several hours. There are no reports on casualties or damage.

While once again condemning this inhuman act by the criminal clerical regime, we again call on all political and humanitarian organizations and on international forums to adopt a serious stance on the regime's inhuman acts, because the regime apparently has made shelling Iraqi Kurdistan a routine practice that it is unwilling to give up. It also has been proven that if this regime is not severely pressured, it will not end its aggressive acts; therefore, pressuring it is the only course of action.

Council Approves 5 Presidential Candidates

LD0805184493 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—The Council of Guardians has approved the candidacy of five candidates for the presidential elections to be held on June 11, an informed source announced today.

Besides President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the other candidates are former labour minister Ahmad Tavakkoli, Chancellor of Islamic Open University Abdollah Jassebi, ex-Majles member from Kazerun Rajab 'Ali Taheri, and ex-MP from 'Ardebil Qasim Me'mari.

The Council also approved the qualifications of veteran of the Iraqi war, 'Ali Akbar Daneshmandi, but due to the fact that he is receiving medical treatment, his name was eliminated from the candidates list.

The presidential elections are the sixth since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Candidates Announced 'This Week'

LD0905141393 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—The Guardians Council here Sunday said that it will come out with the final decision on eligibility of the presidential candidates by the end of this week.

The council also denied Saturday reports that in a meeting it had approved nomination of five candidates. "the council held no meeting on Saturday," said the public relations office of the council.

An informed source claimed Saturday that besides President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, eligibility of five candidates, former Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakoli, chancellor of the Islamic Open University Abdollah Jasbi, two former deputies of Majlis and a veteran of the Iraqi-imposed war, had been endorsed by the council.

A total of 128 registered to run in the sixth presidential elections to be held June 11, and the council will review their applications in 10 days.

The council reiterated that so far it has taken no decision on eligibility of the candidates and that the final decision will be announced in an official statement.

Khamene'i Views 'Hostility' Toward Iran

NC0905061993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, met with Friday and congregation imams, clergymen, and scholars of Mazandaran Province yesterday afternoon. Explaining the mutual impact that the clergymen and the Islamic revolution have on each other, he said that bringing about a profound and basic change toward efficiency that is in proportion with the progress of the revolution is the most significant duty of the clergymen under the current sensitive conditions.

The leader also called on the clergymen to explain the position of the Islamic revolution and to clarify the views of the public and especially of youths, and said: The scholars and the clergymen have the ability to clarify problems in the most honest and expressive way, and they should display the grandeur that the Islamic Republic has created for Islam. They should also show the horizons that are before the eyes of the Muslims of the world and explain to them the hope that has emerged for them. Thus, getting better acquainted with important issues of the Islamic system is among the major duties of the clergymen so that they can explain to the public and especially to youths the system's programs and plans on the progress of various affairs.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the major portion of the enemies' hostility toward the Islamic Republic's system stems from their opposition to the clergymen and stated: Despite all these hostilities and opposition, today Iran has revived religious sentiments and steadfastly stands like a mountain in front of the giant tempests that they have erected against religion and religious traditions. Iran's steadfastness as a religious system has instilled hope even in the Christian 'ulema that moral values can be revived in the current era.

Commemorating His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described him as a rare personality as far as jurisprudence and wisdom are concerned and stressed: Had it not been for the clergymen, the 'ulema, and religious propaganda, the Islamic revolution would never have succeeded. Today, too, the continuation of the Islamic revolution is contingent on the continued serious presence of the clergymen in the various aspects of the revolution, and in relation to this, all the clergymen and especially young scholars should strive to clarify and to keep alive the link between the clergymen and the revolution.

In another part of his remarks, the leader of the Islamic Republic referred to the anti-popular policies of the despotic monarchy and stated: Today, contrary to the past, the country's officials are spending national wealth to meet the needs of the deprived and to serve the people. Of course, the shortages that have been imposed on the people throughout centuries will undoubtedly be removed, and in life under the Islamic system, there will be no poverty or deprivation. But we need time to reach this objective.

The same report states that at the beginning of the meeting, which was attended by some members of the Assembly of Experts; the province's Friday imams; the Babol Friday imam and the representative of the supreme leader; the Gorgan Friday imam and the representative of the supreme leader; scholars of the province's religious seminaries; congregation imams of the province; and a number of students; Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Nur-Mofidi, representative of the supreme leader in Gorgan and Dasht, welcomed the leader of the Islamic revolution to Mazandaran Province and emphasized the Mazandaran Province 'ulema and clergymen's full support for the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i Inspects Naval Academy

LD0905122593 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Chalous, Gilan Prov., May 9, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i inspected the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Academy of Marine Sciences here Sunday.

The commander of the Armed Forces who was accompanied by military and IRGC senior commanders visited various divisions of the academy and issued guidelines.

The academy was inaugurated in 1986 offering courses in navigation, electronics, communication, accounting, state management and command management.

The leader is currently on a tour of the province to inspect marine academies and establishments of both the naval forces.

Addressing a gathering of Ulema in Nowshahr Saturday, Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that hostility of the enemies with the Islamic republic eminated from their opposition to ulema.

However, he reiterated, despite all such enmity and hostility, the Islamic republic has provoked religious sentiments of the people and encouraged them to resist against anti-religious tendencies.

Khamene'i Says Terrorist Claims 'Excuses'

LD0805164193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 May 93

[Excerpts] At a gathering of tens of thousands of the Muslim people of Nowshahr and nearby areas, which took place in Nowshahr's sports stadium this morning, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, made a speech in which he stressed the importance of the adherence of the Muslim people of Iran to divine values.

Describing the true motives behind the enemies' adverse propaganda against Islamic Iran, he said: So long as our nation adheres to religious values and maintains its unity, our youth continue their revolutionary zeal and fervor, the clergy are on the scene, and religion is everyone's reason for being, America and all other hegemonistic powers cannot do a damned thing.

The great leader said that claims by world arrogance that Iran is involved in terrorist activities and the violation of human rights are excuses under the guise of which the enemies indulge in their opposition to the Islamic revolution.

He said: The practical support given by Islamic Iran to the idea that religion and politics are one and the same and its defense of the rights of Muslims all over the world, particularly the Muslim people of Palestine, are the main reasons for the opposition of the enemies of Islam to the Islamic system of Iran.

Referring to the influence of the Islamic revolution in the remotest parts of the world, especially Islamic countries, his eminence said: We do not interfere in the affairs of other countries, but whereever the call of the Islamic revolution is heard every Muslim is the defender of the goals of the revolution. The people of Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, and other Muslims are not separable from Islam. The banner of Islam is raised in Iran and Muslims hold it dear.

He stressed: Despite all the adverse propaganda and media commotion, which are nothing new, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not forsake the principles and values of the Islamic revolution, nor will the strong spirit and deep faith of the people weaken with such propaganda. Our people love their religion, culture, revolution, and officials and consider Islam as a means of reforming the religious affairs of their world and have chosen it consciously. Therefore, they have the power to

build their country without taking any notice of the enmity and propaganda of the enemies of Islam. [passage omitted]

Expressing regret at the world's silence and indifference toward the shameless crimes of the Serbs against the innocent Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: The two-faced politicians and protectors of the civilization that is dependent on materialism, who consider themselves defenders of human rights, have remained silent for one year in the face of the massacre and suppression of the defenseless Muslims of Bosnia, the suppression of Palestinian Muslims, and the slaughter of democracy in Algeria, while defending the Zionist regime, the most brutal symbol of terrorism. [passage omitted]

Further on Khamene'i Address

LD0905230293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1646 GMT 9 May 93

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to the people of Nowshahr, in the stadium at Nowshahr on 8 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I shall say this once again even though I have said it repeatedly before. Those who are angry with the Islamic Republic and constantly say: terrorism; support for terrorism; violation of human rights; and baseless and unfounded remarks of this kind—what they really want to say is something else. Those who say that Iran sides with terrorism, they themselves know that they are lying. They are terrorists themselves. They themselves support the most aggressive terrorists in the world—that is, the Zionists. They themselves know that Iran does not support terrorism. If they say sometimes that human rights are violated in the Islamic Republic, they themselves know that they are lying. They know that this is a lie and a baseless thing to say. Moreover, they themselves are not at all enthusiastic for human rights. What does human rights mean to them? You saw how they burned those people in America. You saw how they beat up those blacks. What does human righs mean? They do not believe in human rights.

These things are all talk and pretence. The reality is something else. They are extremely annoyed about several things but they do not wish to admit this openly because it is not politically convenient for them to do so at a worldwide level.

One of the issues is that of the separation between religion and politics. This is the fundamental issue. They are angry with that message of the eminent imam [Khomeyni] which he extracted from the heart and matter of Islam and spread throughout this society and all over the world—that religion is not separate from politics; religion is the same as politics and politics is the same as religion; religion is not confined to the corner of the prayer niche and religion is there for the arena of life, for governing humankind. This became the basis of this great struggle of the Iranian nation and other resistant Muslim nations. This is what makes them angry. They say: Come gentlemen, separate religion from politics. What does this mean? It means that anyone who wants to be religious could be so but that when you want to elect someone as president, you should not care about whether he is religious or not. You should elect someone even if that person is unprincipled [la- obali]; irreligious; impious—let that person come and administer the country. When you want to elect your Majles deputies, you should not care whether they are religious and adhere to religion; even if they are unprincipled and irreligious and ignore Islamic principles and Islamic ethics and values, you should elect them. What do they mean? It is because they know that if anyone who heads the country is religious and adheres to religion, anyone who is religious in the Majles will not compromise with them against the interests of the nation and will not place their interests before the interests of the country and nation. But this does not present a problem to someone who is unprincipled. A person who is not religious, who is unprincipled is the essential issue. They say: Look here sir, you want to be chief, you want to be [word indistinct], you want to enjoy yourself? All right then, we will take care of this. Just do what we say—just like the corrupt and disgraceful regime of the Pahlavis who were like this. Today, too, unfortunetly, there are these types in the world of Islam. How many there are, we do not know—you know better. This is what they want. Therefore, their fundamental problem is that religion and politics should be separated from each other.

The next issue is the issue of Palestine. They do not want the Islamic Republic of Iran to say: I oppose the betrayal of the Palestinian nation. They say, just as others come and sit around the negotiating table to strike bargains over the Palestinians' home and destiny, you [Iran] should also accept this. Of course, we have not sent an army to Palestine. It is the mere fact that we oppose that which is being done to Palestine that makes them angry. That is their problem.

Another issue is the defense of the rights of the Muslims of the world. They say, why do you defend the Muslims of the world? Why do you awaken them? These are the issues which upset them. They are questions of principle. Terrorism, human rights, the rights of minorities, and so on are just excuses.

Let me conclude by telling you this: Dear brothers, dear sisters and the entire Iranian nation, as long as you stand by the values of your religion, as long as you value your country, as long as you value your dear Iran, as long as you value Iranians, as long as you respect Islam and the Koran and stand hand-in-hand in obedience to the Koran, as long as you love the officials of this country and elect them with open eyes and stand by them until the end—and that is exactly how it is now, God be praised—as long as our youths do not allow their religious and revolutionary enthusiasm and fervor to be diminished—and they will not allow it—as long as the clergy remain on the scene, as long as religion is the basis

of life in this country and as long as the government of the Koran casts its light on this country, praise be to God, you should know this: not only the United States, but even greater powers, the entire world all together, or all the satanic power-holders of the world will not be able to do a damn thing against this country. [Crowd chants in support] [passage omitted]

Further on Jannati Friday Prayers

LD0705122393 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—A senior cleric Friday said that presidential candidates must be among senior politicians and expert on various political issues. "Everyone who intends to run in the 6th presidential elections (due to be held nationwide on June 11) should first prove he is a good manager," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, jurisprudent member of the Council of Guardians said. Jannati regretted, however, that many of the applicants have in no way necessary qualifications.

The ayatollah was speaking to a large group of worshippers who crowded the Tehran University campus and its nearby streets to say their Friday congregational prayers. He also called on the Majlis (parliament) to immediately begin scrutinizing the qualifications and performance of ministers so that the legislative body would approve their competency knowingly in due time.

Referring to the statements recently made by leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'ali Khamene'i on Iran's cultural independence, Jannati warned that enemies of the Islamic Republic have made huge investments to prevent Iran from achieving that independence by deviating the youth.

"At present, schools are the fronts of Iran's battles with global arrogance...We should always be watchful for this cultural raid," he pointed out. To this end, he said, teachers are expected to act more vigilantly and pay more attention than ever before to the mental health of the youth.

Elsewhere in his remarks the substitute Friday prayer leader appealed to Iranian executive officials to find ways to check the soaring prices of goods as soon as possible. "It is true that restructure of the economy is followed by austerity but one cannot exploit this as a pretext to ignore the problems caused by high prices for the low-income people," the ayatollah said. He regretted that the performance of certain officials indicated their failure to stop prices from going up.

A pre-sermon speaker, the leader's representative and superintendent of Iranian pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri said the unity of Muslims was of great significance during the annual hajj rituals. "Any act that may sow discord between us and other Muslims is religiously forbidden," he stressed. The Islamic Republic has made enormous investments to ensure the conduct of hajj pilgrimage since the revolution's triumph in 1979 and the government pays rials 250 billion for this purpose annually, he said. Reyshahri also urged the Iranian people to massively turn out in the June 11 presidential elections to show to the world that they are still present on the scenes of the revolution.

Need To Preserve Combat Capability Stressed

NC0905074993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 9 May 93

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group carried during the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief, arrived in Nowshahr yesterday morning to inspect the city's military centers and meet with the people of Nowshahr. He was welcomed by military commanders and administrative and law enforcement officials.

The Islamic revolution is a revolution that relies on divine values. Therefore, since its victory it has always faced various problems stemming from the fact that Iran's policy is independent and outside the reach of aggressive plans. The arrogant powers clearly can never accept the adoption of an independent policy, and therefore hatch various plots.

Plots by world arrogance have always emerged in various ways, one of the most outstanding of which has been the adverse propaganda against the Islamic Republic. Through its propaganda, world arrogance has always tried to portray a distorted picture of Islamic Iran to the world and to portray it as trying to aggress against and take away the rights of others. World arrogance has done everything it can to portray Iran as a country that tries to make known its revolutionary objectives by resorting to military and terrorist methods.

In some of his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i revealed the objectives of world arrogance and stated: We do not interfere in the affairs of other countries, but wherever the call of the Islamic revolution is heard, every Muslim is the defender of the goals of the revolution. The guardian of the Muslims' cause stressed: Despite all the adverse propaganda and media commotion, which are nothing new, Iran will not forsake the principles and values of the Islamic revolution, nor will the strong spirit and deep faith of the people weaken through such propaganda. Thus, the emphasis placed by arrogant powers on Iran's so-called adverse objectives in the region is merely a propaganda weapon being used to distract the public from the realities of the Islamic revolution.

Naturally, in order to remain steadfast, every revolution—apart from preserving its moral values and revolutionary principles—should also be militarily strong; and the preservation of military strength is never a

reason for the existence of an aggressive nature and extremism. The Islamic revolution's 14 years of experience and the various incidents that have taken place in our country are proof of this.

Thus, preserving the Iranian military forces' combat capability is only for peaceful objectives, and Iran believes that the preservation of regional security should be the responsibility of regional countries alone and that there is no need for the presence of foreign powers to ensure this.

Iran is not trying to militarize or destabilize the area, and it supports the consolidation of peace and security in the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and other parts of the world. Those who have brought foreign powers to the region are to blame for the insecurity in the region, and it is only natural for Iran to alertly strive to preserve its combat capability and strengthen its

Pakistan

Grenade Attacks Made on 3 Naval Installations

BK1005101593 Karachi DAWN in English 10 May 93 p 18

[Text] Karachi, May 9—Unidentified motorcyclists lobbed hand-grenades at three naval installation in the city early on Sunday morning. However, nobody was injured.

The attacks coincided with a strike call given by the Sindh People's Students Federation Working Committee (a group expelled by Ms Benazir Bhutto from the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]) against the Shah Bandar incident 12 months back, in which seven of its members were killed and 14 others arrested.

Senior naval officials told DAWN that the hand-grenade attacks were carried out betweens 2.40 a.m. to 2.50 a.m.

The first attack was launched at a naval installation near Karsas on Habib Rehmatullah Road, where a hand-grenade was thrown near the gate.

A couple of minutes later, armed mens thraw a hand-grenade onto the gate of Navy Recruitment Centre near Lucky Star in Saddar.

The third hand-grenade was lobbed at the gate of Naval Dockyard in West Wharf.

In all the three cases, the main gates were slightly damaged.

A high-level team of military and naval intelligence agencies have been set up to arrest the culprits.

Explosions Reported in Sindh Province Cities

BK0905074893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Karachi, May 9 (AFP)—Explosions in several cities of Pakistan's volatile southern province of Sindh injured several people including a policeman early Sunday, officials said.

The explosions coincided with a strike call by the Al-Zulfikar Organization (AZO) to observe the first anniversary of the deaths of seven activists killed by the Pakistan navy. The AZO is said to be headed by Murtaza Bhutto, brother of former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto.

At least 14 alleged terrorists were apprehended in the encounter last year and one of them had died in custody.

Official sources said a policeman was injured when "unidentified terrorists" hurled grenades at a police station in Dadu, about 400 kilometres (240 miles) north of here.

Explosions were also reported in the nearby towns of Sanghar and Nowshehro Feroz, injuring at least three passers-by, witnesses said. It was not clear what caused the explosions. Police were investigating but so far no one has been arrested.

AZO has been charged in the past with involvement in attacks on trains, political assassinations and hijackings.

The government of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif had described AZO as a "terrorist wing" of Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which is now part of the new coalition government.

Corruption Charges Against Sharif Detailed

BK0705145893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The chairman of the Accountability Committee of the Cabinet and federal minister for labor, Mian Zahid Sarfraz, while presenting the first corruption case against the former prime minister before the jury of the nation has said that Mian Nawaz Sharif manipulated reduction in customs duty on shredded and bundle scrap to benefit the Ittefaq Foundary, which had a windfall profit of about 378 million rupees. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, Mian Zahid Sarfraz gave details of the case and furnished documentary evidence in support of his contention.

He said let the entire nation with the jury and the business community, who can fully comprehend the tax mechanism and its implications, be the judge. He said details will be sent to the Ministry of Law for giving it the legal form and the case will be sent to the courts of law for dispensation of justice. Mian Zahid Sarfraz said never in the entire history a prime minister and his family have manipulated and devised policies to suit their personal business interests as did the former prime

minister. He said the only aim of the fiscal, economic, and taxation policies of the former government was to accumulate wealth. The entire political gain plan revolves around creating a kind of family syndicate through which they may control and manipulate economy of the country in such a manner that not only they remain in power but they may also be able to perpetuate their rule for decades to come. For this purpose, they used the state apparatus in a specious way. Giving details of the case, the chairman of the Accountability Committee said in July 1989, the then PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government revised excise duty and sales tax to differentiate between the locally manufactured ingots and billets. Ittefaq Foundary filed a writ petition in the Lahore High Court against this decision. Neither in the writ petition nor in Lahore High Court decision, there was any mention of customs duty.

The former government, while preparing the 1991-92 budget, proposed to the cabinet reduction in the customs duty on shredded and bundle scrap. The cabinet was told that the proposal was being forwarded in the light of the Lahore High Court decision. By this act, a wilful attempt was made to mislead the cabinet and misrepresent the court for personal interest. However, the cabinet did not approve the proposal. After the passage of the finance bill 1991-92 in the National Assembly, the former government through the Economic Coordination Committee [ECC] got reduced the customs duty on scrap from 1,500 rupees to 500 rupees per metric ton. As a matter of principle, the proposal rejected by the cabinet earlier should have been referred to the cabinet by the ECC for review. This decision caused a loss of more than 1 billion rupees to the national exchequer, whereas estimated loss to Pakistan Steel was over 600 million rupees. This decision also crippled the ship breaking industry [as heard] badly hitting the national economy.

Court Case Against Assembly Dissolution Begins

BK0805142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The Supreme Court today began hearing the petition filed by the former prime minister, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, challenging the dissolution of the National Assembly. The court consists of the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hasan Shah, Mr. Justice Shafiur Rahman, Mr. Justice Saad Saud Jan, Mr. Justice Abdul Qadeer Chaudhary, Mr. Justice Ajmal Mian, Mr. Justice Mohammad Afzal Lone, Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, Mr. Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, Mr. Justice Salim Akhtar, Mr. Justice Syeduzzaman Siddiqi, and Mr. Justice Fazal Ilahi Khan. The attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi; Mr. Khalid Anwar, counsel for the petitioner; and S.M. Zafar, appearing for the caretaker prime minister, submitted their arguments on maintaining the petition. The hearing will continue tomorrow.

Mazari: First Priority Fair Elections 14 Jul

BK0805145393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has said his first priority is to hold elections on the 14th of July in a free and fair manner, for which the federal and provincial governments will make all necessary arrangements. He was addressing the administrative secretaries and senior officials of the Punjab government at the Governor's House in Lahore today.

The prime minister said during his recent visit to Sri Lanka, he extended invitation to the foreign press and media to come to Pakistan and oversee the forthcoming elections, which would be transparent.

The prime minister said he would like to see that the institutions in the country are strengthened with a view to ensuring their functioning without fear or favor. He said civil servants should act according to their conscience and exercise their right of independent opinion. He regretted that some of them in the past were compelled to act against their conscience, which would happen no more.

Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said his government will give full support to the Punjab government in order to help it solve the day-to-day problems of the people.

The chief minister, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo, assured that the Punjab government would provide neat and clean administration to the people. He said the provincial government is fully alive to the priorities set out by the federal government and will work for the attainment of these objectives.

The Punjab governor, Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain, urged the public servants to instill confidence in the public about their working and performance.

Representatives of the local traders associations of various markets also met the prime minister in Lahore. Talking to them, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said the small traders form the backbone of the economy. He assured that the government will actively consider setting up a small traders chamber to ensure that the benefits are reaped by big traders alone but also trickle down to small traders and the man in the street. The prime minister asked the traders to put forward concrete proposals to check smuggling.

President: Armed Forces Equal to External Threat

BK0905082693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said Pakistan will continue to work for lasting peace in the world, particularly in South Asia. He was addressing installation ceremony of Colonel-in- Chief [title as heard] of the Armed Corps, General Shamim Alam Khan, in Naushehra today. He said efforts should be made to

search just, peaceful ways and means for solution of issues that time and again led to creation of problems for peace in the region. He said without solution of the Kashmir problem, South Asia will continue to remain devoid of achieving fruits of meaningful peace and mutual cooperation. He hoped that all countries in the region will understand this reality and begin to work for achievement of desired objectives. The president said the Armed Forces of Pakistan are fully capable to meet any outside aggression. He said the personnel of the Armed Forces with their strong faith in God and mission will emerge victorious as ever in any hour of trial.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari; the NWFP governor, Mr. Amir Gulistan Janjua; and high ranking military officials.

Further on Address

BK0905145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said that Pakistan considers its freedom supreme to everything else and its people have the courage and determination to render any sacrifice for its preservation. The president was addressing a ceremony held in Naushehra today to install General Shamim Alam Khan as Colonel-in-Chief [title as heard] of the Armored Corps. He said that despite limited resources and compelling needs of socioeconomic development, Pakistan cannot afford to ignore the requirements of a strong and invincible defense. Referring to regional irritants, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Kashmir is the key issue. Unless and until this issue is resolved according to the United Nations resolutions, South Asia will remain devoid of true peace, harmony, cooperation, and beneficial collaboration, which are becoming the captions of new chapters of development and prosperity in other regions of the world. He hoped that sooner or later, all South Asian countries shall endorse this truth and shall act sincerely to fulfill its logical needs. He said given the new international trends of peaceful coexistence and amity, the positive prudent and moderate forces will dominate in our region. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said peace and security cannot be attained by mere lip service to (?these) ideals. For this, it is essential to remove all those irritants by finding a peaceful just and respectful solution. But, the president emphasized, if some country is insistent to remain involved in misadentures, it should understand that valiant armed forces of Pakistan possess tremendous capabilities to meet any aggression.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari, decorated General Shamim Alam Khan with the badges of honorary Colonel-in-Chief of the Armored Corps. The NWFP [North- West Frontier Province] governor, Mr. Amir Gulistan Janjua, Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed, Corps Commander Lieutenant General Aiyaz Ahmad, and high ranking military officials were present on the occasion.

In his address, General Shamim Alam Khan said that he would make every effort for the welfare of the jawans [soldiers] of the corps and the families of the martyrs. He assured that full attention would be paid to the provision of all necessary modern arms to the corps in order to increase its professional capabilities.

Armed Forces To 'Assist' in 14 Jul Elections

BK1005033293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The Election Commission is fully prepared to fulfill its constitutional obligations for holding free, fair, and impartial general elections on 14 July. This was stated by Chief Election Commissioner Retired Justice Naimuddin Ahmad in Islamabad last evening. During his meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, he briefed the president on the steps being taken for conducting the general elections. The Armed Forces will assist the Election Commission in conduct of free, fair, and impartial elections. The chief election commissioner said the elections will be held on the basis of existing constituencies, while the existing electoral rolls, which have been revised, will be utilized during the elections. He said adjustments in the extent of constituencies will, however, be made only in cases of newly constituted districts soon after the appointment of two members of the Election Commission.

Ghafoor Khan Hoti Sworn In as Interior Minister

BK0905142293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti was sworn in as the interior minister at a simple ceremony at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] this evening. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, administered the oath. Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari was present on the occasion. Federal Minister for Housing and Works and Environment Mr. Anwar Saifullah, some federal secretaries, and senior officials attended the ceremony.

Twelve Affected by Gas Leak in Karachi

BK0705154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Twelve persons became unconscious due to poisonous gas leak from a chemical gas godown at Sher Shah in Karachi this afternoon. They have been admitted to a hospital.

Foreign Office Comments on Arabs Departure

BK0905112393 Karachi DAWN in English 8 May 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, May 7—More than 1,600 Arabs have left Pakistan to the destinations of their choice in the last

few days after the caretaker government cracked down on their activities, senior foreign ministry sources revealed on Friday.

"We have not deported anyone to any country yet these Arabs have gone out voluntarily as they feared government action," a high level source said.

The exodus of Arabs has come after the charges levelled by some Arab countries, including Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia, that Pakistani soil was being used by these terrorists against their governments.

"Pakistan told these Arabs that Islamabad meant business and they started leaving the country," the source said.

The source said Egypt had asked Pakistan to extradite a number of "more wanted" persons, but Pakistani officials were certain that these persons were not in Pakistan.

"Even if they are in Pakistan, the government cannot extradite them because they may or may not have committed any crime in Pakistan and Pakistan does not have any extradition treaty with Egypt," the source said.

Some of these Arabs have left for Afghanistan and have been provided sanctuary by Mr Golboddin Hekmatyar but Pakistani officials say if this is correct, "it is for Afghanistan and the Arab countries to sort this matter out."

Pakistan government high ups are confident that none of those Arabs, who have proceeded to Afghanistan to escape action by Islamabad, would be allowed to return to Pakistan.

"We have assured all our Arab brothers that Pakistan would never be allowed to be used as a springboard for any activity against any country," a highly placed source said.

This assurance was given by the new foreign minister, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada to OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] foreign ministers in their recent conference in Karachi, and most of the Arab countries now believe that Pakistan would practice what it has promised.

Pakistani policy makers are also thinking of bringing together top level official and decision makers of some of the Arab countries which had raised objections at an informal conference where the positions would be explained and understanding could be reached.

But this proposal is yet to be seriously mooted as foreign minister Sharifuddin Pirzada is presently busy in some other important matters.

Egyptian Nationals Not Expelled

BK1005102593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 10 May 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The Foreign Office Sunday denied reports that Pakistan had expelled more 200 Egyptian nationals from the country, but said some may have left on their own accord.

"No Egyptian has been extradited by the government", a Foreign Ministry spokesmen said.

However the spokemen said it was "possible" that "Egyptians nationals present in Pakistan legally or illegally might have left the country on their own accord," and pointed out that the government could not be certain of the number.

A Foreign Ministry official in Cairo said Saturday that Pakistan had deported to Sudan 230 Egyptian Muslim militants wanted in Egypt in connection with a wave of fundamentalist unrest.

U.S. Concerns About Terrorism 'Misplaced'

BK0905163793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has said Pakistan has assured the United States that it is a peace- loving country and wants to have good relations with its neighbors. Talking to newsmen in the parliament house in Islamabad, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said Pakistan did not believe in terrorism and the American apprehensions in this regard were misplaced. Replying to a question about the response of the United States to Pakistan's assurances, the prime minister said it should be good.

About the provicial governments, he said they were so far working according to the Constitution. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari said the law would take its natural course regarding cases against the previous government.

Country Still in Danger of Terrorist Label

BK0705131593 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 5 May 93 p 3

[Editorial: "The American sword of terrorism charges"]

[Text] According to the report by a special correspondent of the prestigious English periodical THE NEWS, the impression that the United States has decided not to declare Pakistan a terrorist state is not correct. The impression was created due to a report published this week in which the U.S. Government gave details of countries which have been declared terrorist states and it did not include Pakistan. Some Pakistani and U.S. media then concluded from the noninclusion of Pakistan in the report entitled "Trends of World Terrorism 1992" that there is no possibility now of Pakistan being declared a terrorist state.

When the correspondent of the THE NEWS asked a senior State Department officer about it, he replied that the publication of the aforementioned report should never be construed to mean that a final decision has been made for not declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. The State Department spokesman said that Pakistan's case is being considered separately and all facts are being reviewed, and whenever any clear and concrete [passage indistinct]. The reporter asked the spokesman that since Pakistan's case has been kept under observation for six months and this duration will end on 6 July, should the issue be considered closed if no decision is made by then? The spokesman replied that a decision to declare any state as terrorist can be made any time and there is no time restriction in this regard, nor there is any limit. The U.S. State Department always receives evidence and whenever they are satisfied that sufficient evidence has been received against a particular country, then they may declare that country a terrorist state.

Another senior officer of the State Department told the U.S. Congress Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific that since there is no possibility at present of selling any defense equipment to Pakistan or transferring any technology to that country, Pakistani and U.S. authorities are now considering how to formally terminate the already existing contracts and agreements on supplying defense equipment, and, also, to sell the equipment which was originally produced for Pakistan to someone else. The spokesman said in particular that the 60 F-16's which were earlier agreed to be sold to Pakistan are not going to be supplied as well. Pakistan, however, has already paid the first installment on them and it is also paying rent for an area where these aircraft are being stored in a hangar.

Both reports cited above are sufficient to demonstrate that there is not (?much possibility) of any improvement in Pakistan-U.S. relations (?until) there is a positive change in the U.S. attitude toward Pakistan. [Words indistinct] the Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman has occasionally in recent months given the impression that issues with the United States are being resolved and the danger of our country being declared a terrorist state has definitely been overcome. But it seems that such statements were merely an attempt to satisfy the spokesman himself and the Pakistani people. It is said that Ms. Benazir Bhutto will be meeting some U.S. Government representatives during her current visit to the United States and these meetings are aimed at preventing attempts to get Pakistan declared a terrorist state. Although Pakistan People's Party circles have acknowledged that Ms. Bhutto will be meeting some U.S. officials, they have not said that these meetings are aimed at preventing the U.S. Government from fulfilling its intentions. It is quite possible that such talks are being circulated with the intention that if Ms. Bhutto fails to achieve her objectives, then it would not be attributed as a discredit to her.

Whatever the case, the Government of Pakistan should dedicate all its resources and capabilities in order to remove the misunderstanding that the United States has about us. If Pakistan is declared a terrorist state, God forbid, it will create numerous serious difficulties for us, and our economic and defense problems will further multiply. A full-fledged foreign minister of Pakistan has been appointed after two and half or three years. He is recognized as a competent person. Under his leadership, the Foreign Ministry should present its case to the United States in a very excellent, strong, and explicit manner and employ all its capabilities to blunt and nullify the sword which has been hanging over our head since October 1990. The United States should also shun its prejudices and consider Pakistan's viewpoint and case by dismissing the hostile propaganda of our enemies. And it should not opt to punish an old ally for a sin it has not committed. Pakistan forthrightly acknowledges its moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiris. It has already invited world organizations to visit Pakistan and see for themselves that there is no camp for training terrorits. A number of foreign observers have testified to the authenticity of our claim. Given this situation, the United States, instead of adopting its unilateral opinion, should also review our evidence and testimonies.

The United States is now a little bit more convinced of our stand on the nuclear weapons issue and it now admits that Pakistan stresses a regional resolution to the problem. It bears weight in the argument that since Pakistan emphasizes a regional solution to the nuclear weapons issue, the United States is now left with no justification to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. The caretaker government has a limited mandate. But still, it should wholeheartedly and earnestly strive to neutralize the U.S. sword.

Arms Distributed To 'Non-Muslims' in Kashmir

BK0905150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of fierce clashes between mujahidin and Indian troops in various parts of the held valley. According to KMS [Kashmir Media Service], the clashes took place after mujahidin in an operation killed 10 Indian troops in Antapura area of Anantnag, Islambad. Mujahidin also carried out attacks on Indian troops and destroyed an armored car near Parigam. In another operation, Indian troops suffered heavy casualties at Gandarbal and Dero areas in Badgam. Indian troops also set ablaze five shops in Bandipur today where three Kashmiris were killed by Indian troops in detention yesterday. Six mujahidin were martyred in clashes with Indian troops in Baramula. In Baramula, a prominent mujahid leader, Mansoor Ahmad, was martyred in detention by Indian troops. Six houses were also burned by Indian troops in Tenkipura area of Srinagar where several localities have been sieged by Indian troops. According to the agency, arms are being distributed officially among non-Muslim population in Doda of Jammu District.